

# 1970-1979 VACAVILLE

## THE PAST CENTURY

### Vaca growth pushes many to say: 'Whoa. Slow down'

By Richard Rico / Editor & Publisher

If we expected the first seven decades of the 20th century to be a rehearsal for what was to come, when the curtain was raised on the '70s we found that somebody had changed the play. What happened next wasn't what we expected because what happened next was anybody's guess.

Old beliefs about the natural progression of things were altered. Priorities became skewed. After years of working toward a larger, more happily populated city, questions started popping up. When it comes to growth, is there such a thing as "more is less"? Did someone say that bigger isn't necessarily better? Does growth actually have a down side? Is there such a thing as too many people

in too many houses? Isn't our disappearing ag land a natural resource to be protected? What about water? Lake Berryessa in the '50s answered our water fears, presumably forever, but by the '70s we began to realize that no lake is without a bottom.

And what about sewer plants, parks and city services? What about schools and traffic and air pollution? What about crime? What about drugs? And what is "open space" anyway?

SOT (Save our Trees) met TEAM (The Environment and Man) and the growth, no-growth fight was enjoined.

Whoa. Slow down. Put a lid on it. And that's what the Vacaville city councils of the '70s tried to do. Hous-

(See Growth, Page 6)

Ford  
Dole

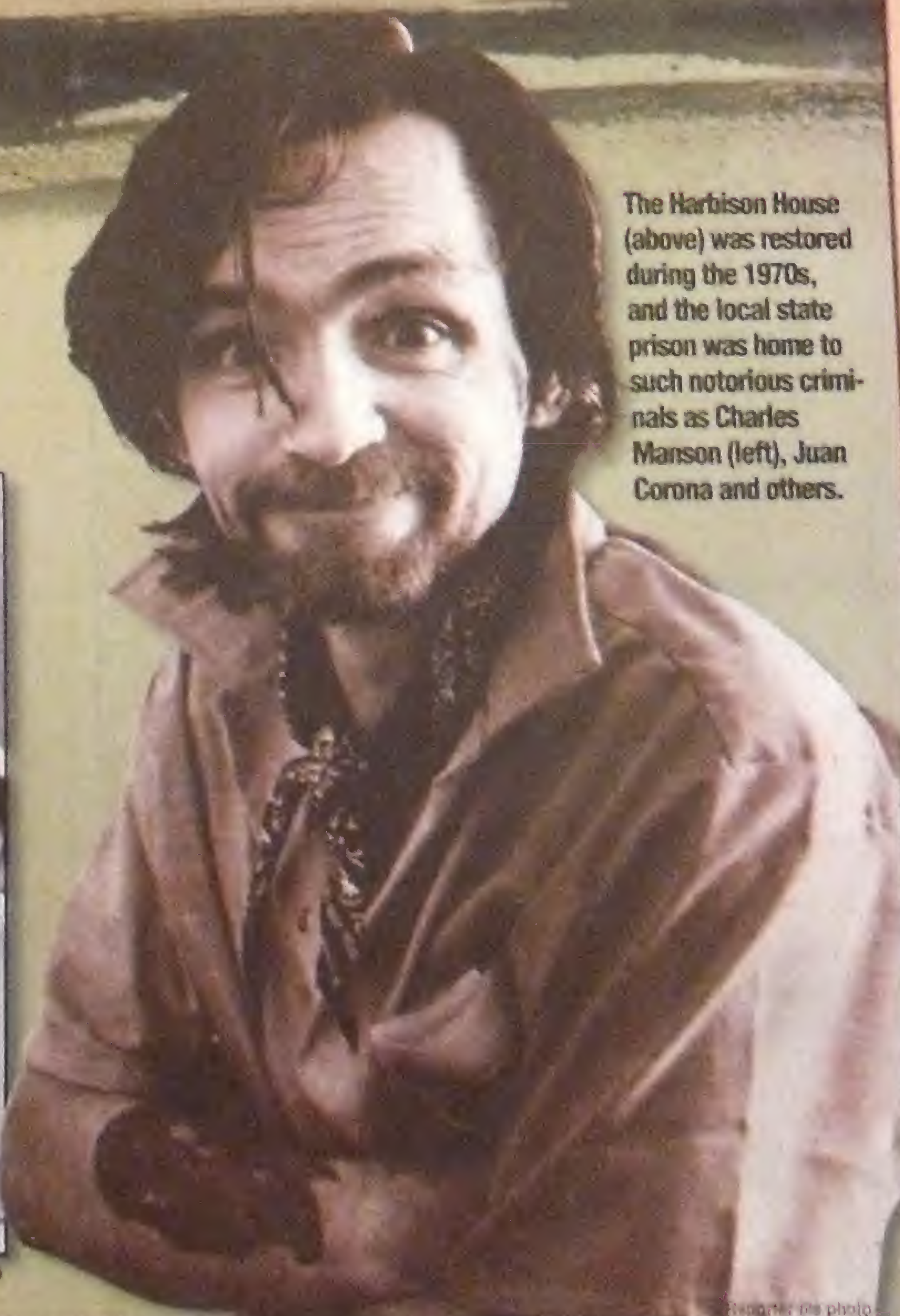
President  
Nixon.  
Now more  
than ever.



The '70s saw the re-election and resignation of a president, rising gas prices (left), and the country's bicentennial celebration. Kim Tolley (below, left), Chamber of Commerce office secretary, and chamber Executive Vice President-Manager Tom McNamara raise a flag for the local celebration.



Vacaville Heritage Council



The Harrison House (above) was restored during the 1970s, and the local state prison was home to such notorious criminals as Charles Manson (left), Juan Corona and others.

### The growing of a city

Long hair, miniskirts, the end of the Vietnam War, and the worst of the worst at the local state prison. For the first time, a U.S. president resigned.

More and more orchards were wiped out to make room for the unbelievable growth in housing and commerce during the 1970s.

Women took a far bigger role in the '60s than in the 1950s, but they had an even bigger role in the '70s. The city had

its first female mayor.

There were changes at the Police Department and at the Fire Department. A new library opened. There was "Hamburger Hill." There were shortages and high prices.

It was Vacaville of the 1970s.

In the latest installment of "Vacaville: The Past 100 Years," The Reporter looks at the 1970s. Assemble this and other chapters of this 10-month special collection devoted to Vacaville history.

### Growth

Housing and business expansion draws concerns. / Pages 3 & 9

### Liberation

Women become strong influence in Vacaville. / Pages 4

### Notorious guests

CMF houses infamous criminals. / Page 13



### New chapter

Vacaville library opens doors to new home. / Page 27



# LITHIA TOYOTA OF VACAVILLE

## 1974

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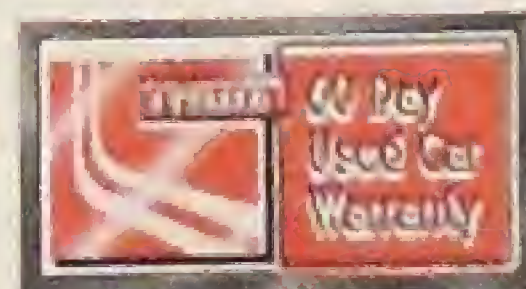
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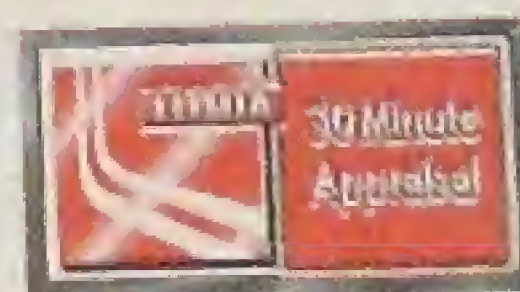
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1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

# VACAVILLE'S GROWING DEBATE

## City growth imprints run deep in the 1970s

By Mike Adamick  
Staff Writer

By the 1970s, waves of homes already had washed into Vacaville, pounding against Interstate 80. Ultimately, they crested the concrete swathe, crashing eastward into the valley. The large, sprawling subdivisions pushed the city limits outward, and the community reeled from an unheralded debate.

The foundation to Vacaville's continuing debates on growth, and its imprints on society, was set in the 1970s.

At the outset of the decade, city services already were stretched thin and residents were feeling the effects of a population that had doubled every 10 years. In the early 1970s, residents mumbled "slow down." By the end of the decade, they screamed "STOP!"

"It was easy, however, to criticize the City Council in 1973," according to a Reporter news article published Dec. 27, 1973. "Their position was an unenviable one. Vacaville had always been a pro growth city and had also had the wide open spaces to absorb growth without significant impact on rural surroundings. Suddenly, the council was caught between the opposing forces of pro development interests and slow-down elements, but with no precedent for a slowdown. Petaluma had limited homes to 500 a year, but Petaluma was in court. Clearly, the council was staring at unexplored territory."

The uncharted horizon was how to maintain a small-town ambience in the face of broad-scale development.

Twenty thousand people flooded into town during the 1970s, hurting the population from 21,690 in 1970 to 41,508 in 1980. The housing stock soared 136 percent, from 6,474 units to 15,300 units.

On a single meeting in February 1972, the Planning Commission heard proposals for a mobile home park near Nut Tree Airport and five subdivisions throughout the city: 101 units off Fruitvale Avenue, 458 units near Horse Creek, 150 units off Peabody Road, 37 units off Foothill Drive and 156 units at Fruitvale and Orchard avenues. It was characteristic of other meetings throughout the decade.

With the homes came the need to expand city services.

What are now Three Oaks Community Center and the community swimming pool were built for little more than \$1 million. Roads were widened and

traffic lights were installed. A sign ordinance was drafted. The first bike trail, from Leisure Town to Pena Adobe, was constructed. Plans to preserve Old Rocky and open space arose.

City Hall itself expanded, hiring a city planner whose sole job was to measure the environmental impacts of housing projects.

Community groups formed, hoping to stem the tide of growth's impacts. The Save Our Trees committee set out to do what its name said, but as the town grew, so did its focus.

"Now you are interested in far more areas than just saving trees," former Mayor Bill Carroll commented in 1974 as he advised the group to change its name. It did, becoming the slow-growth SAVE (Save Vacaville Environment) which heatedly debated the pro-growth TEAM (The Environment And Man).

The deluge of homes carved a new landscape for city services, with increasing pressure on police, fire, parks and schools.

The schools were in disarray. "Our education standing has dropped considerably," said resident Ruth Bradanini in a Feb. 22, 1973, Reporter article about expansion into North Orchard and its impact on schools. "We're simply getting too many children for the facilities available. What are the citizens of tomorrow going to be cheated out of?"

By March 1978, the school system officially said it could not handle the predicted growth.

Parks were lacking. In 1973, the City Council forced developers to pay \$600 per home to help build more of them.

About the only services that withstood the growth deluge were water, sidewalks and streets, according to a city report published Feb. 10, 1978.

The political landscape changed, too, with some of the politicians who emerged then still around today. Of course, there was Bill Carroll, who jumped onto the City Council in 1970. Current Mayor David Fleming was elected to the City Council in 1978. In between, the city obtained its only female mayor — Barbara Jones — who was part of a planned-growth faction.

Growth dominated the election debates.

"Some people say growth won't be an issue in City Council elections," Carroll said while campaigning in 1976. "But I think there is no other issue. Any other issue pales alongside



Sections of pipe for a new sewer pipeline line Main Street (above) in 1972. The line was being built to the Dobbins and Deodara areas, before being extended to the Fruitvale area to serve new home developments along North Orchard Avenue.



A 1973 photo of what would become Three Oaks Community Center (above) and the community pool.

this one."

Carolyn Van Loo, a founding member of SAVE, said she didn't see her loss in the 1974 race for a council seat as an endorsement for the status quo. Yet after she and Jones won council seats in 1976, they claimed their victories were a call for better growth planning.

"It's a mandate from the peo-

ple of Vacaville for a little more sensible planning, rather than allowing rampant growth without planning," Van Loo said in a March 3, 1976, article in The Reporter.

Various plans emerged: Limit homes to 1,400 a year, 1,200 a year, 1,100 a year. Growth reached a high point in 1977 and (See Growth, Page 8)



This Jan. 17, 1974, editorial cartoon by Darrel Akers in The Reporter shows the concern about the continued rate of growth.

## WORLD IN TRANSITION — VIETNAM TO DISCO

### Flux lands direct hit on Vacaville

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

Prisoner of War bracelets and smiley-face buttons. Student protests, student dropouts and flower power, baby. Long gas lines and Nixon resigns. Afros, streakers and the fall of Saigon.

The '70s dawned in the Age of Aquarius and, by the dusk of the decade, hints of social pessimism were looming after years of political turmoil, countless shortages and the Iranian hostage crisis.

None of this missed Vacaville, which by 1979 numbered more than 40,000 residents.

In an editorial on Dec. 28, 1979, publisher John Rico offered a broad-brush view of the high and low points of the 1970s, citing the end of the Vietnam War in 1973 and Nixon's resignation in 1974 as the top events of the decade. He also reminded citizens that they had elected five mayors in 10 years, welcomed a new fire chief (Dale Geldert) and a police chief (Gary Tatum), and had endured extremes of

weather by experiencing both the driest winter in almost a hundred years, as well as the wettest.

His sentiments about the decade were mirrored by several residents who answered this Dec. 30, 1979, "Street Beat" question: "What was the most memorable thing about the '70s?"

"The decline of the presidency," was foremost for Helen Harris, while political problems and oil shortages stood out for Kelly Peterson. Patty Hearst's saga was memorable for Gretel Stephens, who also noted that "the '70s were depressing ... everything went wrong."

Area residents, as with much of the country, had mixed feelings about the Vietnam War early in the decade. According to a June 1970 article, University of California students who had been polling Vacaville on the topic found that 30 percent favored a complete withdrawal, 28 percent were "backing Nixon" and 24 percent were "apathetic."

Two weeks later, the local draft board indicated it could draft all men over age 18 who had a 1-A mil- (See Trends, Page 8)

Four ex-employees of a Vacaville gas station protest their firing because of their long hair. Their hair and a relaxed attitude about clothing were a central part of the 1970s.



Vacaville Heritage Council

Trends  
of the  
Times



# Vacaville: A Glance BACK

## 1970

- The Public Library moves to new quarters on Merchant Street.
- Country High School opens in Elmira.
- Solano County takes title to the Nut Tree Airport.
- The movie "The All-American Boy" is filmed here.

## 1971

- Howard Wood Sr. succeeds Warren Hughes as city fire chief.
- Schools are in the red for first time.

## 1972

- The biggest single annexation in the city's history is approved: 1,000 acres in Browns Valley.

- Land is acquired for Lagoon Valley Regional Park.

- McDonald's opens on East Monte Vista Avenue, the first fast-food restaurant on "Hamburger Hill."

## 1973

- The Vacaville Community Center (now Three Oaks Community Center) and pool open.
- The city fluoridates its water supply.

## 1974

- An armed robbery at Pietro's No. 1 is the first to involve a shootout between police and a robber.
- Streakers are sighted in town.
- The lights go on at Harold Youngblood Stadium after fund-raising drive.

# Vacan may share in Bakke victory

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision today striking down a special admissions policy at the University of California, Davis, nearly assures that Vacaville resident Rita Clancy will be able to finish her studies and become a doctor.

Mrs. Clancy, wife of county Deputy Public Defender Patrick Clancy, was ordered admitted to the Davis medical school last September.

Like Allan Bakke who won his case before the nation's highest court, Mrs. Clancy's attorneys argued that she was discriminated against because she was white.

The U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision at 7 a.m. today, saying the Davis school discriminated against Bakke because he was white. The school admitted 16 minority students ahead of him on the special admissions program.

Having settled into Vacaville for the past year, Clancy and his wife have shunned publicity on the issue. The couple left their Vacaville home early this morning and dodged reporters.

However, earlier this week, Clancy told The Reporter that if Bakke had lost his case before the high court, he and his fellow attorneys would have been ready to take his wife's case to the end. However, since the special

admissions policy was struck down today, and since his wife has already completed her first year in the medical school, it appears she will be able to finish her educational career at Davis.

The possible ramifications of the Supreme Court's Bakke decision could reach deep into federal, state and local governments.

Affirmative action programs in the Vacaville Unified School District, the City of Vacaville and Solano County could be affected by the decision.

The high court said that Bakke (and probably, therefore, Mrs. Clancy) was illegally discriminated against because the Davis medical school accepted the 16 minority students, all of whom had lower grade point averages than he.

Bakke, twice rejected by the UC Davis professional school, will enroll in September. His attorney, Reynold Colvin of San Francisco, said this morning the 38-year-old engineer was "elated" by the decision.

Civil rights groups argued that the quota system did not constitute "reverse discrimination" and it was one way of providing access to professional schools for minorities who have been discriminated against in the past.

The Reporter  
June 18, 1978

# Two Vacaville men miss ill-fated flight

Counting his blessings and shaking his head, Clark Snyder of Vacaville can recall the chattering stewardesses and the cute 4-year-old girl sitting near him when Flight 182 left Sacramento Monday morning heading for Los Angeles and then disaster.

Snyder, general manager of Festival Homes of Vacaville, got off the flight in Los Angeles to attend a business seminar.

He left behind the stewardess, the young girl, who was about the same age as his own daughter and more than 130 others who would perish in the nation's worst air disaster.

Although they would eventually find him safe and sound, Snyder's wife, Sue, and his three children had some tense moments Monday. Early reports did not pinpoint where the Pacific Southwest Airlines Flight 182 collided with a student pilot's small rental plane. The first reports were sketchy and no one knew much for certain.

"I consider myself extremely fortunate," Snyder said yesterday

after a full day to ponder the tragic mishap that killed at least 150 persons near San Diego Monday.

Another Vacaville resident, Dick Younce, owner of D&D Mobile Homes on Alamo Drive, was booked on Flight 182 and he, too, intended to attend the seminar. However, Younce slept in and didn't catch the early flight.

"It was still kind of scary to think how close I came," Younce told The Reporter yesterday.

Eileen Kelly of Travel Unlimited in Vacaville booked Younce on the flight. She said she was amazed that more local persons were not on the flight and headed all the way to San Diego.

"That Monday morning flight is heavily booked," she said. "We book it all the time."

Both men attended a seminar for dealers of Fleetwood Enterprises on mobile home loans for veterans. The seminar was held at Marriott's Hotel in Los Angeles, a few miles from the airport.

The Reporter  
Sept. 27, 1978

# Time to curb garbage

Starting Friday, garbage that isn't at curbside doesn't get dumped.

It's part of a new city-Vacaville Sanitary Service agreement for keeping garbage rates at status quo, but requiring homeowners to drag cans out from back and side-

yards to curbs the way they are now required to drag out trash barrels.

Garbage and trash will be picked up the same day, as is now the case in most areas of the city.

The Reporter  
May 29, 1973

# 'I AM WOMAN'



Vacaville Heritage Council

In the early '70s, the women's committee of the Chamber of Commerce was called the Chamber Maids (above). Eventually, the group dropped the name and was included in the regular chamber membership, not just to help out with chamber activities.

# Women grasp stronger role in all facets of Vacaville life

By Kathy Keatley Garvey  
Special to The Reporter

The desire to be their own persons — whether as a homemaker, meter reader, firefighter, race car driver, lawyer, prison guard, pilot, politician or corporate executive — drove Vacaville women in the 1970s.

The decade summoned and challenged them. They plunged into a world of "Be all you can be," seeking causes and changes instead of consensus and complacency. As the decade wore on, "Do you work — outside the home?" replaced the question, "Do you work?" Their choices included the right to be more than a daughter, wife, mother or grandmother.

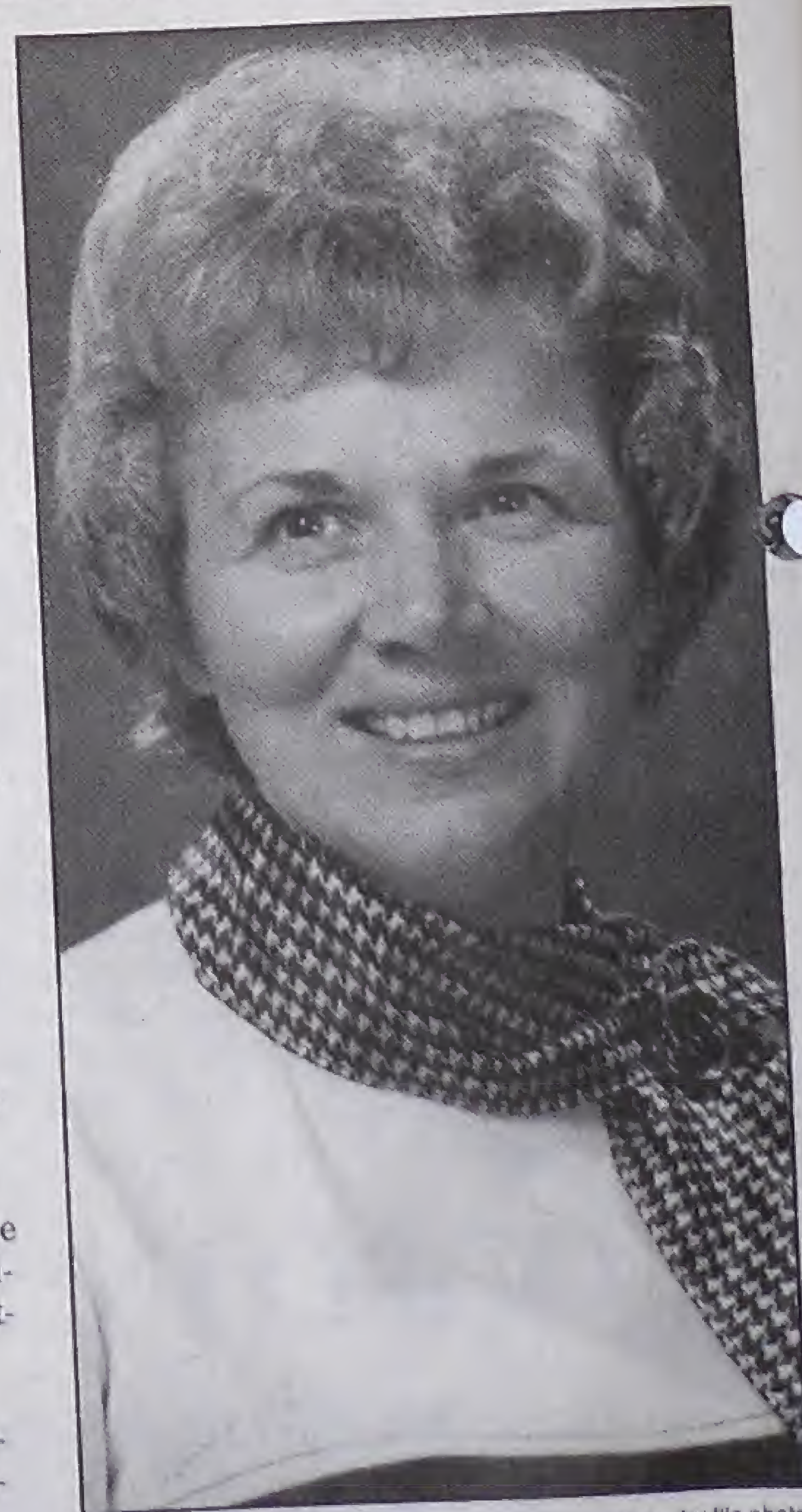
No longer did wax buildup, water spots on drinking glasses and ring around the collar consume them — if they ever did. The women of the 1970s called for a fundamental revision of American institutions, customs and values. They raged against population growth, hillside development, overcrowding in the public schools, mediocrity in the classrooms, health care, the criminal justice system, male-dominated sports, and sexual and economic barriers.

Despite their self-discovery and consciousness-raising, women continued to socialize at the Saturday Club, churches, and lodges, but they also campaigned for

— and won — City Council, school board and mayoral seats. They spoke out at taxpayers' association meetings. They crusaded against all forms of injustice. They sought equality in the workplace, in the institutions and in the marketplace. They gave crime victims a voice. They stood firm in their convictions, and solid in their views. Their passions became their politics, their politics became their passions.

The community's difficulties proved to be a place to use their gifts. No longer would they slide into a back seat when a driver or navigator was needed. Women such as Mayor Barbara Jones and Councilwoman Carolyn Van Loo — the first women to scale the political heights of City Hall — epitomized Diana Ross' hit song of the era, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and Helen Reddy's "I Am Woman."

The '70s was real estate broker Lucille Spengler standing in front of the Soroptimist International of Vacaville and reciting her slogan, "I have a lot you should see." It was writer and producer Alice McDonald embroiled in her latest melodrama — the dastardly villain, the dashing hero and the diminutive heroine. It was philanthropist Eva "Bennie" Buck pouring tea at the Saturday Club and anonymously supporting community (See Women, Page 5)



Reporter file photo

Barbara Jones, Vacaville's first female mayor, helped break the political glass ceiling into Vacaville City Hall.

In 1976, when Rose and John opened their 2nd location in Fairfield their son David and his wife Juanita took over the day to day running of the business.

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## 1970's

Another salon breakthrough from Helen Curtis, UniPerm offered a compact machine for foolproof permanent waves. With solutions for normal, tinted or bleached hair and Body for Men for unisex salons, UniPerm was an immediate and long-lasting success. Moisture Quotient hair care products gave salons and clients moisture-balanced hair. The Helen Curtis Hairstylists Advisory Board acknowledged the importance of the stylist/manufacturer relationship. Helen Curtis was the first to sponsor an NCA convention event.

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- Christmas Collectibles

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brain, I would  
know to go to...

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## 1975

- Alamo Place, the city's first shopping center, opens.
- The telephone company can't keep up with the new service requests.
- The Fire Department gets its first "Jaws of Life" rescue tool, thanks to a fund-raising effort.
- The Vacaville Christian Academy (now Vacaville Christian Schools) opens.

## 1976

- Voters elect the first women to the City Council: Barbara Jones and Carolyn Van Loo.
- Vaca Valley Industrial Park is approved.
- Strike at American Home Foods results in major loss for area farmers.

## 1977

- The City Council votes to put a cap on the number of homes that can be built during the next five years.

- Barbara Jones becomes the city's first female mayor.
- The Fire Department begins running a paramedic program.

## 1978

- Eight years after becoming one of the first heart transplant patients, Vacaville resident Carlyle Townswick dies.
- The mayor's job becomes an elected post and voters pick Bill Carroll.

- Year-round schools are turned down at the ballot box.
- The city has its first bank robberies — four of them.
- Lucky Stores Distribution Center opens and three months later becomes the site of a deadly strike.

## 1979

- The Segam building on Mason Street becomes our first three-story building.

## Coming Soon — A SPECIAL REPORTER SUPPLEMENT



On Monday, October 29, 1973 the Reporter will publish a special section devoted entirely to and about Vacaville women. There will be pictures and stories reporting on their achievements, clubs and their purposes and their many organizations.

It will be read and re-read and kept for ready reference.

### Watch For It October 29 In the



VACAVILLE  
REPORTER

Women's changing roles were deemed substantial enough to warrant a special section about their "achievements, clubs and their purposes, and their many organizations." At left is an ad from the Oct. 11, 1973, Reporter urging readers to "watch for it" later in the month. Fashions of the times meant higher hemlines, as shown by Mrs. Donald Beck (below left) and Dorothy Fernandez as the model in a March 30, 1970, ad in The Reporter for Lyn-Dahl's on Parker Street.



Steve Huddleston

## City changes reflected in newspaper's changes

The Reporter has been, and remains today, a reflection of the community it serves. As Vacaville and its neighboring towns experienced the social flux, political upheaval and economic progression of the 1970s, the direction of the community and the nation changed.

Changes in the family-owned, independent newspaper were inevitable then. They came quickly between 1970 and '79.

One of the most notable happened in January 1972, when John Rico stepped down as publisher and handed that mantle to his son, Richard, who remains editor-publisher today. It wasn't long before the next generation began to reshape the newspaper to fit the changing times.

Kathy Garvey was moved from her role as society editor into the managing editor's chair. She knew nearly everyone in town by first name, had developed a network of social and political contacts throughout the community and could pound out a 12-inch news story in 12 minutes. She was the clear choice to guide the paper as it tried to please readers who were clamoring for more than just small-town politics and society tidbits, big-fish photos and the Friday night football scores.

About this time, a whole new ilk of journalists appeared — young, ambitious, impressionable and idealistic — maybe even a little romantic. Their heroes were Woodward and Bernstein, reporters for the Washington Post who had brought down a president of the United States (Richard Nixon) with diligent reporting and an exhaustive quest for truth.

As a clean-shaven, persevering young writer just out of the University of California, Davis, I was hired by Rico and Garvey to cover schools and cops. Like my counterparts Suzanne Rockwell and Greg DiGiere, I believed good community journalism was all that "soft, little stuff" topped with a scoop of hard news.

The publisher and managing editor never swayed in their dictate to put local news first — school menus and a list of goods reported stolen to police were published regularly. The crime log was dominated by vandalism, petty thefts and an occasional two-bit burglary. Athlete of the Week always caused a stir because we knew the parents of every player on the team in our one-school town — especially those of the athletes not chosen.

Still, the era of Watergate raised the expectation of journalists and of readers. Journalism in Vacaville, and in communities with intelligent newspapers, became more serious.

When school trustees created a revolving door that resulted in rapid hiring-firing of superintendents, The Reporter didn't flinch in reporting the details of the discord.

When white supremacist inmates gained control of one of the few money-making opportunities for prisoners at the California Medical Facility — a drug-testing program — we went inside to uncover the racket.

When county government became a political hotbed, we assigned a writer full-time to a domain that rarely before had been mentioned in the news pages.

In May 1976, Fairfield news began regularly appearing on Page 1, marking the start of a 25-year rivalry with the competing daily newspaper in that neighboring city.

Jack Anderson made his debut in the fall of 1976, the first nationally syndicated columnist published by The Reporter.

In the summer of 1979, a Reporter staffer headed to Valdez, Alaska, to follow the flow of crude oil to local refineries on the maiden voyage of the Exxon Benicia.

The Reporter grew as Vacaville developed. A (See Newspaper changes, Page 6)

## Women grasp stronger role ...

(Continued from Page 4)  
charities. It was "Mrs. Red Cross" Leila McKeivitt sharing her historical memories of Vacaville and modeling exquisite beaded dresses at fund-raising fashion shows.

It was activist Lynn Kessler vowing to "Save Our Trees." It was a tireless Marianna Pokorny coaxing and cajoling the Vacaville High School choir.

It was patriot Eleanor Nelson delivering a keynote speech to her fellow Republicans. It was a dedicated-to-detail Mary Helen Fairchild reigning supreme at Nut Tree Restaurant functions. It was avid Bulldog supporter Lola DeVan cheering on her teams. It was order-growth advocates Mayor Jones and Councilwoman Van Loo pleading their causes. It was female lawyers, school principals, office managers and chief executive officers planning, developing and constructing the inroads that became part of our infrastructure.

Together they, and hundreds others, carved a forest of memories in our community and gave us a sense of belonging and being.

First they gave us roots, then they gave us wings. Like birds learning to fly, we fluttered and fell before we sailed and soared.

The changes were not without controversy.

Men and women alike debated what women should and should not do. Correctional officers at the California Medical Facility — and their wives — denounced women as correctional officers. Today women run some of the prisons.

Male coaches complained bitterly about Title IX, the section of the Education Amendments of 1972 that

prohibits discrimination based on gender in education and athletic programs that receive U.S. government funds. Today Title IX scores a "big 10." It continues to change our culture and society's perspective on female athletes.

Despite the controversy and counter movements, still the women came.

"A woman's place is in the House — and the Senate," T-shirts proclaimed. Federal laws assured women's right to equal treatment and economic equity in the workplace. The Reporter reflected the decade in its coverage of women's "firsts," pointing out success stories and "I-can-do-that!" attitudes, something we all take for granted today.

The Vaca Valley Scene, once known as the society pages, mirrored the changes occurring elsewhere throughout the country, as women demanded — and gained — their own identities.

No longer was a woman "Mrs. John Smith" but "Mary" Smith or "Mary Jones-Smith." "John" disappeared from the title, and when the woman was mentioned a second time in the story, she became simply, "Smith," just like her male counterpart. Committee "chairmen" became "chairs" or "chairpersons" or simply "coordinators." "Firemen" became "firefighters" and "police officers" replaced "police-men."

Still, remnants of the past pulled at the fabric of equality.

The Women's Committee of the Chamber of Commerce chose to be called "Chamber Maids," a name that today would be confined to the bathroom instead of the boardroom. Slowly, however, the Chamber



Maids merged into the Chamber, not as a support group, but as full-fledged members, ambassadors and directors.

On the surface, the '70s looked like a decade of bell bottoms, bean bag chairs, earth shoes, polyester dresses, leisure suits, "All-in-the-Family" on TV, smiley faces and "red heart" bumper stickers. But beneath the surface, the 1970s marked women's transformation from passivists to activists, when they refused to stand on the sidelines and WATCH what was happening in their community, or WONDER, "What happened?" as they read the newspaper headlines the next day. They responded to and

shaped the times: They MADE things happen.

The transformation from passivists to activists, was, in one word, profound.

■ The author was The Reporter's managing editor from 1976 to 1982 — the first woman to hold that job. She is now a writer at the University of California, Davis, and a longtime volunteer with such organizations as the Sacramento Youth Symphony, Solano County 4-H, Vacaville Fiesta Days, Vacaville Onion Festival, Solano County Fair, Dixon May Fair and the Vacaville High School PTSA.



Bob Tooke

Bob Tooke owner of Merchant and Main has always had a passion to cook. As a teenager you would find him in the kitchen creating tasteful dishes for his family to sample. Bob's first job in the food industry was as a busboy while he attended Cupertino High in San Jose, graduating in 1971.

In 1973, Bob started his cooking career as a chef with "no cooking experience." 25 years later you will still find Bob in the kitchen creating and planning gourmet dishes that you enjoy for lunch, dinner or any special occasion.

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## Travelling back through time: 1970-1979



The 70s. The decade of Disco, bell bottoms and lots of feathered hair. More changes happened at Barber Joe's in this decade than in any other. The biggest, was the loss of the original "Joe The Barber," and the introduction of Karen and Janice Lopez, Joe's granddaughters, to the shop. Never getting to work with their grandfather, they joined their father in the family business. All at once Barber Joe's was truly a family hair salon, with services for men, women, and children. Joe was one of the earliest in men's hairstyling, while the girls brought with them the ability to do perms and colors, as well as traditional haircutting. Women in the barber shop was uncommon, yet Karen's entrance, followed by her sister Janice seemed a perfect fit.

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## If Rip Van Winkle Slept on a Simmons...



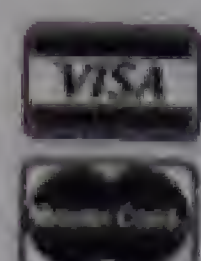
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## A look back... 1970-1979



Jerry and Erika Thornton in their first store located in Dixon open in 1972

Jerry & Erika Thornton opened Thornton & Sons Jewelers in 1972. Jerry has always looked to the future, knowing exactly where he wants to be and how to get there. He has proven that with all the success he has had with his business. Since 1972 Thornton & Sons has grown to 3 locations to better serve their customers.

Thornton & Sons Jewelers is a full service jeweler and the largest custom jeweler in the valley. They have complete facilities for casting, wax carving and they do 90% of the work in their own shop. A special service Thornton's has is the gold nuggets they make from melting down your old, unused pieces of gold jewelry to make a one-of-a-kind pendant or charm. Custom mountings are a specialty and the experts can also create for you a beautiful wedding set or cocktail ring to your own specifications.

Tom Thornton, (background) and John Thornton work on some jewelry in their shop. 1983



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## 1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

## Trends of '70s ...

(Continued from Page 3)

itary status. Nixon signed a bill to lower the voting age to 18 in June 1970.

Sheryl Jernigan, a 13-year-old eighth-grader at Willis Jepson Middle School at the time, vowed to wear her prisoner of war bracelet until her soldier came home — and he did. Navy Lt. j.g. Markham Gartley returned in September 1972. After hearing the news, Sheryl said she would "keep (the bracelet) and buy another."

Another Vacan, Karen Rigley, then 19, met the POW honored on her bracelet. Maj. Edward Leonard Jr. of Washington, released after 4 1/2 years of captivity, was being discharged from Travis Air Force Base in April 1972.

When Rigley heard the news, she told a writer for The Reporter at the time, she persuaded a friend to give her a ride to the base so she could track him down. She succeeded and gave him the bracelet she had been wearing. She reported that Leonard's first impressions, after being in the United States for the first time in more than 10 years, was how "taken aback he was by the flashy clothes."

After the war ended in 1973, a flow of active duty, Missing in Action and POW soldiers passed through Travis Air Force Base, and The Reporter covered many of the homecomings. In July 1974, The Reporter published an article addressing the problems veterans were facing, including a lack of jobs and even discrimination.

Refugees began streaming out of Vietnam and many settled in this area, adopted by area families and churches, including the congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church. In March 30, 1977, The Reporter noted that as many as 10,000 refugees had settled in California.

On the political front, Nixon's resignation was called for in a Reporter editorial in October 1973, and a Page 1 article in August 1974 noted that after he did resign, Vacans reacted quietly to the news.

\*\*\*

Medical advances, such as heart transplants, also were making the news, and one such pioneer lived in Vacaville. Carlyle "Robert" Townswick received a new heart at Stanford in July 1970, and The Reporter followed his story until he died in May 1978.

Throughout the decade, Vacans jumped on the trendsetting bandwagons.

In March 1974, two Vacaville High School seniors streaked across campus with nothing more than a "Vaca" and a "High" sign to cover their bare bottoms. Both boys received a one-day suspension which, according to Vice Principal Charles Fortunato, was appropriate because streaking "is not the proper thing for a high school student to engage in."

Streakers also were spotted in spring 1974, some running around Solano Community College and at least one riding a motorcycle through the English Hills while wearing only a helmet and boots.

Smiley-face buttons were selling like hot cakes at the Nut Tree, noted a September 1971 article that also taught readers how to "wear a smile even when you feel frownish."

Other fashion trends that ebbed and flowed through Vacaville in the '70s included pantsuits and the miniskirt, which fell by the wayside by 1974.

\*\*\*

Hair — how long and how much of it — was a big topic of discussion in the early '70s. In the fall of 1972, newspaper articles reported that four area gas station attendants picketed for "long hair rights," while student-teacher committees met to establish reasonable hair-length guidelines. Long hair was banned for Vacaville High's male athletes in the 1972-1973 school year but allowed the following fall. By 1978, The Reporter was noting that more and more men were going to "hair stylists" instead of barbers.

Other exotic hobbies and groovy fads burst on the Vacaville scene throughout the decade. Within a year of the 1969 release of "Easy Rider," The Reporter noted an increased interest in motorcycles, "today's soul machine," the appeal of which included "speed, freedom, excitement."

Readers learned how to macrame in a September 1971 article, while earlier in the year the new craze for waterbeds made headlines. Citizens band radios burst on the scene in 1976, and a Reporter article in August that year noted how frequently the radios were being stolen.



Vacaville Heritage Council

Macrame, miniskirts, boots and long sideburns were all part of the fashion of the 1970s, as shown in this 1971 photo of a couple at the Vacaville Art Gallery.

Area residents were signing up for yoga classes, opting for designer checks, holding fondue and china-painting parties and even learning to belly dance by 1974. In 1977, racquetball was heralded as the country's fastest growing sport, biorhythms were being tracked in 1978 and disco was red hot by 1979. So were King Tut cookies at the Nut Tree, to commemorate the famous Egyptian's visit to San Francisco's de Young museum. And even when it all got too, too hot, area residents still climbed into their hot tubs.

In September 1975, The Reporter ran a three-part series of articles on couples

living together, while another article reported that gay church services were now being held at California Medical Facility.

Parent effectiveness training is nothing new, it appears. Classes were being held in Vacaville as early as May 1975. The La Leche League formed a local chapter in 1976 to provide support for breast-feeding mothers.

In the midst of all the turmoil and trendsetting, the country celebrated its 200th birthday in 1976, and Vacans joined in a bicentennial party held at Andrews Park.

## Growth...

(Continued from Page 3)

then leveled off for the rest of the decade, allowing time for services to catch up, or at least attempt to.

In 1978, there was a four-month moratorium on new subdivisions until better planning could be achieved. The same year, the city rejected 14 projects that could have resulted in 3,335 new housing units on more than 1,000 acres of land. Building permits were greatly limited because of pre-approved developments still being phased in.

Still, the growth did not stop. The prosperous Browns and Boulder valleys emerged in the late 1970s, with plans for more than 2,000 homes on 800 acres.

The growth also added new amenities for residents. McDonald's, Wendy's, Long John Silvers, Vaca Valley Bank, Grand Auto and a new Lucky shopping center on Peabody Road all arrived by the end of the decade. So did new jobs — the Crocker Industrial Park opened in 1977, as did the Lucky Distributing Center. In surrounding cities, new hospitals and shopping malls emerged.

The growth ebbed momentarily in the decade's dusk, and plans for the future lurched into shape. The ambitious general plan of 1980 was formed in the late 1970s, as city leaders grappled with perennial topics such as where and when and how much to grow.

"Trying to predict just how big Vacaville will be in the next 10 or 20 years so frightens some people that they prefer not to think about it," according to a Reporter article published Feb. 27, 1980. "The slowdowns of growth management will have their immediate effect, but the long-range picture will likely see the ongoing evolution of this once rural community into a thriving city, with all the triumphs, trials and tribulations that come with it."

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1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

# Commerce grows with community

## Growth, strike mark Vaca business in '70s

By Amy Gingerich  
Staff Writer

National restaurant chains and supermarkets found Vacaville in the 1970s, forever changing the facade of the historically agricultural community.

Perhaps the most visible change to Vacaville's business community occurred on Bennett Hill, more affectionately known since the 1970s as Hamburger Hill.

Yet the most-remembered event might be the 19-week lock-out at the Lucky Distribution Center in 1977, when one picketer was killed.

The population more than doubled as the decade passed — 21,690 residents in 1970 and 41,506 by 1980, according to the U.S. Census Bureau — and business grew along with it.

Alamo Plaza, the city's first shopping center, opened, and Lucky Distribution Center and Coachmen, a recreational vehicle manufacturer, were lured here. Business at the Nut Tree blossomed and branched out: A Nut Tree candy and novelty store opened on Beech Street in San Francisco.

As a Jan. 1, 1973, Reporter article said: "Vacaville's business climate is unseasonably warm these days. Quietly, but steadily, new businesses are hanging out their shingles on the local landscape, as Vacaville's huge home-building boom is apparently beginning to look appetizing to men of goods and profits."

McDonald's opened its doors in 1972, and other fast-food chains followed once lots were graded and Monte Vista Avenue was widened. Hamburger Hill was later identified as mastodon country when a 40,000- to 60,000-year-old jawbone was found there in 1973.

While McDonald's was one of the first major business ventures to reach Vacaville in the '70s, it was quickly overshadowed by the rise of Alamo Plaza, which opened in May 1975 with "nearly two miles of counter space" at Grant City, the plaza's largest tenant.

As businesses came, excitement grew and Vacaville wanted more. Yet there were a few concerns about the new businesses' effects on smaller retailers. As the Reporter noted in 1975: "In the face of these new emporiums for orgiastic buying, what with their coffee shops and their fountains and their free this and free that, how can the hometown shoe store or appliance dealer or fix-it shop hope to ever compete."

Such concerns

were not enough to halt the boom, and much like it does today, retail, commercial and industrial jobs all found their way to Vacaville.

More businesses meant more employment — and more opportunity for labor strife.

In 1976, some 700 employees at American Home Foods walked off their jobs just as crops were about to be harvested. Before the dispute was settled, some \$20 million worth of Solano County pears, peaches, apricots and tomatoes were lost to spoilage despite farmers' efforts. Their attempts to slow the ripening process included spraying tomatoes with white-wash, a type of chemical sun-screen.

The strike wasn't the first seen in Vacaville — supermarket employees had already walked out — and certainly wasn't the last.

Three months after the May 1978 opening of the Lucky Distribution Center in the Vacaville Business Park off Interstate 505, members of Teamsters Local 490 found themselves locked out when contract negotiations broke down.

When Lucky hired non-union drivers to distribute its products while union drivers picketed, the scene turned ugly.

Strikers lined Crocker Drive and threw rocks at the nonunion drivers. One person was hurt. At least twice, weapons were brandished. For a while, Vacaville police in full riot gear patrolled the center, enforcing a temporary restraining order that kept picketers 400 yards from the center.

Yet there were no officers in sight the night of Aug. 21, 1977, when a nonunion driver leaving work at 8:30 p.m. sped down the road without headlights, in hopes of avoiding a confrontation.

Striker Randolph Hill, 24, of Vacaville was crossing the road and didn't see the rapidly approaching car. Hill, who had worked at the plant for less than one month, was killed by the impact. Another picketer was hurt as he rushed to help Hill and was struck by a second car that had been following the first one out of the center.

Hill's death spurred union and grocery negotiators back to the table, but to no avail. The strike — complete with fire slashing and rock throwing —

dragged on for an additional 12 weeks.

In March 1979, the nonunion driver was tried on a manslaughter charge. The three-day trial ended in a not guilty verdict.



Vacaville Heritage Council



Vacaville Heritage Council

Signs for East Monte Vista businesses (above) sprouted up nearly as fast as fast-food restaurants did on "Hamburger Hill," including the city's first McDonald's (left). Charles Pedrotti (far left) of Jack Johnson Civil Engineers holds the mastodon jawbone unearthed during the construction of Long John Silvers on Hamburger Hill in August 1979. The mid-'70s saw the building of the city's first shopping center, Alamo Plaza (below left), and the construction of the Lucky Distribution Center (below).

"Vacaville's business climate is unseasonably warm these days. Quietly, but steadily, new businesses are hanging out their shingles on the local landscape, as Vacaville's huge home-building boom is apparently beginning to look appetizing to men of goods and profits."

Reporter story, Jan. 1, 1973



Reporter Bob Photo



Vacaville Heritage Council



Reporter Photo



# Meeting the Challenges of Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow



Walter P. Chrysler  
b. 1875 – d. 1940

1970 – 1979

Since the beginning of the American space program, Chrysler Corporation had played an active role in constructing the powerful engines used to launch astronauts into orbit, or to the moon. NASA had chosen Chrysler to produce Saturn 1 and Saturn 1B launch vehicles, which the company assembled at the Michoud Operations Plant in Louisiana – former producer of diesel engines for the M-48 medium tank during the Korean Conflict.

The NASA/Chrysler partnership would last well into the 1970s. In 1971, Chrysler prepared a Saturn 1B launch vehicle that would serve to lift NASA's 58-foot-long laboratory into orbit around Earth and another that would carry three astronauts on a mission to rendezvous with Skylab in 1973. The 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission would be the Chrysler Space Division's final rocket launch. During this project, another Saturn 1B carried three American astronauts in an Apollo spacecraft, eventually meeting up with a Russian Soyuz spacecraft in Earth orbit.

Although Chrysler's achievements in space were quite notable, automotive work on solid ground did continue. The Chrysler brand's most celebrated vehicle introduction of the mid-70s was the Newport Cordoba hardtop – the first car to bear the Cordoba name made famous in actor Ricardo Montalban's television commercials. Successful new vehicle launches like the Cordoba were not enough to stimulate the American auto industry, however. A combination of poor economic conditions, a Middle Eastern oil embargo and a barrage of fuel-efficient Japanese imports left American car companies in an unfortunate situation.

Hope for the industry was rekindled in November of 1978 when Lee Iacocca joined Chrysler as president. Thanks in part to his remarkable business acumen, Iacocca paved the way for one of the 1980's most memorable success stories.

– 1970 Chrysler  
Super Bee

1972 – Dodge Dart

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Dear Friends,  
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Bell bottom pants, Disco dancing. A new generation of hard, acid rock which kids loved and drove parents to the edge of insanity.

Exercise and health took on a new meaning with jazzercise classes becoming the rage, and God help you if you drank too much milk or ate too much (if any) red meat.

It was more than 200 Americans held hostage in a faraway and hostile land. It was Watergate and Richard Nixon's painful resignation. It was an often-times bumbling Gerald Ford, a good guy who couldn't help tripping a lot. It was Jimmy Carter who took on the great communicator in the late 1970's and ended up making history which will probably be noteworthy forever. Ronald Reagan forever established a new level of freedom in the world.

It was Americans going crazy over the bi-centennial. Who will ever forget that special Fourth of July?

Like every other decade of the Century the 70's helped shape where we are today, which in my viewpoint is all good.

Clarence Williams Jr.  
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1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY



Reporter file photo

## Unstately mansion

The 110-year-old Uhl family home just off Dobbins Street north of Monte Vista Avenue in downtown Vacaville was dilapidated by the late 1970s when it was sold by Ed Uhl to Clyde Greco for commercial development

and the house was torn down. Restoration costs for the mansion, built in 1869 by W.J. "Doc" Dobbins and bought by C.J. Uhl in 1903, had been estimated between \$100,000 to \$250,000.

## Continuation school in Elmira named

"Country High School" will be the official name of the continuation education school operated in Elmira by the Vacaville Unified School District, it was decided at Monday night's board of education meeting.

Supt. Dr. Carl F. Heinz reviewed that several months ago he called the board's attention to the possibility of adopting a particular name for the continuation education program carried on at the former Elmira Elementary School. ...

Gerald Lugert, supervisor of continuation education, reported that students enrolled in the program took a vote and decided upon the name of Country High School. Other names considered

were Elmira High School and Continuation High School.

There are currently 50 students enrolled in continuation education. ...

Under state law, every school district is now required to provide a continuation education facility until high school youths reach 18 years of age. Vacaville entered into an agreement to send its students to continuation education classes at Armijo High in Fairfield last year, but the State Department of Education has since ruled that each district must operate its own program.

The Reporter  
Nov. 19, 1970

# Hollywood comes north; 'bad movie' filmed here

By Sean Gillespie  
Staff Writer

Vacaville and Hollywood. Both names contain nine letters, but the similarities end there.

For one, some of the films made in Hollywood are successful.

Not that Vacaville has had that many opportunities to squander. Perhaps movie producers still are gun-shy since the city's lone shot at the big time in 1970s "The All-American Boy," starring 30-year-old, critically acclaimed Jon Voight.

"It's pretty bad," admitted Mac Chandler, the only local with a speaking part in the film. "It's a bad movie."

The story's premise offered Voight as a young Olympic boxing hopeful from the small Northern California town of Buddy (Vacaville). Filming crews and movie stars spent seven weeks in the Vacaville area — much of it on the Timm Ranch — during the summer of 1970.

As rumors about the film surfaced in March of that year and soon mutated into truth, the city was abuzz over the prospect of being a major component in the high-profile Warner Bros. project.

In June 1970, 1,000 area residents applied for "bit parts" and "real acting" roles in the "The All-American Boy." Vacaville High School's drill team was among those hired, and its members made several trips to San Francisco for filming.

Area residents flocked to the set to steal a peak — or stare — at the glamorous personalities



Steve Boudonnet/The Reporter

Mac Chandler was the only local with a speaking part in "The All-American Boy." He played a bartender in the film.

that, until then, were only projections on a screen.

"Everybody likes to look and see nothing," said one sheriff's deputy who served as location security during the filming. Uniformed peace officers often were used to push back fans who encroached on the set.

Douglas Service Station on Merchant Street served as "Buddy Gas and Oil" for the movie.

When Voight arrived in "Buddy" in June, he declared "I think it will be a popular film."

Well, it didn't quite work out that way. Two years after filming

was completed, no one had even seen the movie. Speculation in Vacaville and throughout the industry was mounting.

In November 1971, The Reporter repeated an earlier explanation that the flick was "so bad that Hollywood companies are unwilling to risk more cash on a campaign to sell it."

Finally, after the internal editing struggles were resolved and half of the four-hour saga lay on the cutting room floor, "The All-American Boy" was released in 1973.

"It dragged," recalls Chandler, now 75, who played a bartender named "Joe Something" for a brief moment. "There was so much swearing in it. It was unbelievable. Not that I'm a prude, but for that time ..."

Today, it's unclear what happened to "The All-American Boy." A local Blockbuster Video employee could not find the title in the store's computer system, meaning that no Blockbuster in the country has the tape. It likely never was released on video.

Chandler himself hasn't seen it in years.

"I only actually saw it once, and everyone was laughing so hard I didn't hear what I said," said the "retired" actor, who still receives an \$80-or-so check annually for his cameo.

"I like to say I live off my residuals," Chandler quipped.

# Thanks for the Memories!!

1971

1999



In 1971 Ken's Performance Center opened its doors at 650 Davis Street in what was to be known as "the purple building." This was their home until 1987 when they moved to their current location at 110 Allison Court. The "purple" building stood until 1988 when it was torn down and became the commuter parking lot.

Stop by, or email us at [kentirevv@aol.com](mailto:kentirevv@aol.com), and share your memories with us.

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## Two Vaca men survive orphan airlift crash

At least two Vacaville men lived through the tragic C5 crash that took the lives of up to 185 Vietnamese orphans and American service personnel in Saigon, The Reporter learned.

Capt. John T. Langford of 1936 Northwood Drive, and Capt. Keith D. Malone of 504 Walnut Ave. were on the survivors list released at Travis AFB, where the ill-fated C5 Galaxy was based.

The names of 11 Travis crew members were on the list. The crew itself numbered 18, but an Air Force spokesman refused to say whether the other seven are dead or alive.

"There are some still unaccounted for," Capt. Ned Nevells told The Reporter. The 12 on the list are "alive and in good shape," he said.

Mary Malone confirmed yesterday that her husband is "alive and well" at Clark AFB in the Philippines.

"He called Friday night to say he's alive and well, so I should stop worrying," Mrs. Malone told The Reporter.

Travis officials had notified Mrs. Malone of the crash and of her husband's survival "even before I heard it on the radio," she said. "But I was still worried, until I heard from him."

Capt. Malone, the plane's co-pilot, said nothing about the circumstances of the disaster, according to his wife.

The giant C5A Galaxy was headed back to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield carrying 243 Vietnamese infants and young children when the aft doors blew out, U.S. officials in South Vietnam said. The C5, a cargo plane, had too few oxygen masks for children and adults, so nurses were forced to pass them from child to child, survivors reported.

Many of the babies were strapped to the floor in the lower cargo deck. The huge plane col-

lapsed on top of them when it plunged into a rice paddy 1 1/2 miles from Tan Son Nhut Airport, to which the plot was trying to return.

The plane exploded either before or after striking the ground, spreading dead bodies and plane wreckage along a mile long swarth, reporters there said.

Officials on the scene said 100 of the 243 infants and up to 20 of the 62 adults on board were taken out alive, leaving 185 unaccounted for.

The C5 had left Travis Tuesday, part of the large U.S. airlift taking weaponry to the hardpressed South Vietnamese government and taking children out.

President Ford had planned to meet the orphans at Travis, their first stop in the United States on the way to adoptive homes.

The children who survived the crash, along with others, are being taken to Clark AFB in the Philippines, officials in Saigon reported. Some of them, along with other orphans, are scheduled to arrive at Travis early tomorrow morning, according to a Overseas National Airways spokesman. Travis spokesmen were unable or unwilling to confirm or deny the report.

A team of Air Force investigators from Thailand arrived at the scene of the tragedy yesterday to probe for the cause.

Military sources in Washington said there is a "definite possibility" that sabotage might have caused the crash.

However, a U.S. embassy spokesman in Saigon later said that "everything points to mechanical failure."

The embassy officials noted: "The pilot's report said the aft pressure doors blew and went through the aft loading doors. They hit the tail and cut the elevators out of action."

By Greg deGiere, The Reporter  
April 6, 1975



### Travis in the '70s

In the 1970s, Travis Air Force Base remained a crucial part of the military's strategic plan and a vital part of the local economy. Above is the tarmac and aircraft parking area on base. Housing for airmen and the old David Grant Medical Center (left) are shown in these 1973 photographs.

From "A History of Travis Air Force Base"

## Travis crew recalls Jonestown mission

Although some of the crew members had served time in Vietnam, the smell of death that followed the nine men home to Travis Air Force Base Monday was almost too much to bear.

The C-141 crew was one of three from the local air base providing assistance to the recent Guyana tragedy. The men who returned Monday brought 110 bodies out of that South American country to Dover, Del.

Capt. Christopher Brian Keating said the stench of the badly decomposed bodies was such that the crew often took oxygen. The 26-year-old captain, when asked to describe the odor said: "It's kind of like a garbage strike in New York city, that's how I can compare it." Once at Dover, the plane was left open for several hours to air out.

As for the experience, nearly

every crew member called it the most bizarre thing he had ever seen — despite the fact they were never in Jonestown, but in Georgetown, some 150 miles away from the colony where more than 900 persons took their own lives little more than a week ago.

The crew left Travis last Tuesday morning, and in the end flew into Georgetown three times — initially bringing in equipment from Ft. Benning, Ga. before finally taking out the 110 bodies, which were placed in 108 caskets. The bodies were transported out of Guyana Nov. 25.

Keating said he was impressed by the way the Army and Air Force worked together in the mission of mercy, a job for which each crew member was decorated with the Air Force commendation medal.

Nov. 29, 1978, The Reporter

## Crew retrieves capsule

A C-133 Cargomaster from Travis AFB was scheduled to arrive home today after completing a final mission of the Apollo 14 lunar expedition over the weekend.

The C-133 delivered the astronauts' command module to NASA Texas headquarters by a non-stop flight from Hawaii.

Previously, a Travis AFB crew had flown astronauts Edgar Mitchell, Stuart Rossa, and Alan Shepard from the island of Pago Pago in the American Samoan islands to Houston following splashdown.

This time, to carry back the capsule, the Travis crew flew the largest turbo-prop aircraft flown by the military; the C-133 B cargo has been used on virtually all the Apollo missions for

the same purpose.

The plane loaded the module aboard at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, on Thursday, and flew it to Ellington AFB near Houston on Friday night.

Members of the crew from Vacaville were 1st Lt. Kenneth Azloudek, Jr., co-pilot; and Tsgt. Charles Barton, engineer. From Travis, members included Capt. Gerald Teel, pilot; Msgr. Harry Bob, engineer; and Michael Laguire, engineer. From Fairfield, members were Lt. Col. Donald Lockstrom, 84th MAS commander, who commanded the aircraft; Capt. Herbert Nakagawa, navigator; and Sgt. Donald Athen, loadmaster. SSgt. James Mason of Vallejo also was aboard, as a loadmaster.

Feb. 22, 1971, The Reporter

## Hunt on for cause of race riot

Travis Air Force Base is usually a place of come-and-go, from the big planes that land and depart day and night to the people and cars that flow around the base as though part of a huge bloodstream.

For the base this past week, it was more like bloodstains: one dead, 89 imprisoned, a building burned. As national news focused on what was called the worst racial riots in the Air Force's history, Travis officials hurriedly applied the band-aids. In this case though, officials feared, it might be applying band-aids on a wound that goes right to the artery.

Maj. Gen. William Moore, ranking officer at Travis, said as much early Tuesday at a press conference. "We in the Air Force are very much aware of the racial problems in the United States," he said. "And it just can't help but spill over into the service."

Spill over it did. The first signs of trouble to come came over the weekend — fights in the barracks and at an enlisted man's club, and the arrest of three black airmen. There was relative calm on Monday, then toward evening, the powder keg blew.

It started to blow in a barracks

### 'Worse Air Force rioting ever' — military admits 'grievances'

area at Travis known as the "1300 area," named after the building numbers. At the dinner meal, there was general disquiet from the weekend's events, then there was the throwing of salt and pepper shakers, after the meal, there were racial groupings and jeering. Following that, about 200 black airmen headed for the stockade on base where the three airmen were being detained; they headed back when they found the stockade ringed by Air Force riot police. On the way back, investigators said, there was an altercation between whites and blacks at a ball diamond injuring several, sending one white airman to the hospital overnight when he was hit on the head by a bat. At the 1300 area, there were scattered outbreaks of fighting, and some cars in the parking lot there had windows smashed.

At about 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Solano County Sheriff Al Cardoza got the call for help from the base.

He declared a mutual aid situation, and called in 74 civilian policemen, some from every city in the county, plus some from the Napa County Sheriff's Office. Five officers were sent from the Vacaville Police Department.

In the meantime, a fire broke out a Bachelor Officers' Quarters (BOQ) building not far from the 1300 area; the \$40,000 fire resulted in the death of James Marshberger, 47, a Napan employed at the base fire department. Marshberger died of a heart attack resulting from smoke inhalation. As the week progressed, investigators were working to confirm or disprove the widespread feeling that the blaze was deliberately set.

Col. John Blake, base commander, declared things under control shortly before midnight Monday, and civilian lawmen were removed from the base, where they had been engaged in patrolling.

Gen. Moore noted at his press

conference that "We know there are black airmen on Travis with just grievances — we want to know what those grievances are." Moore added that he wanted to let things cool down first, then start talking to those arrested.

For the blacks at Travis, it was a matter of grievances that were either not being listened to or not being acted upon. In an interview with Charles Howe of the San Francisco Chronicle, a number of blacks maintained that no white man on the base has listened or acted upon their grievances. Specifically, they noted unequal punishment for the same offense — a black airman said, as one example, that he had been fined \$15 for being late on a base alert, with white airmen not being fined for the same tardiness. They also said they presented three demands to white officers — that the three blacks jailed Sunday be immediately released; that black and white WAF's not be transferred across the base to another barracks; and that "every black man on base be released with an honorable discharge unless prejudice is stopped."

By Doug Ross, The Reporter  
May 27, 1971

## Travis physician among 272 killed in crash

A Travis Air Force Base physician who recently lived in Vacaville has been listed among the 272 dead from Friday's fiery American Airlines DC-10 jet crash in Chicago.

Air Force sources Saturday confirmed that Maj. John D. Kuykendall, a radiologist training officer at David Grant USAF Medical Center, was killed Friday afternoon when American Airlines Flight 191 from Chicago to Los Angeles crashed and burned shortly after take-off.

Kuykendall's wife, Debbie, also was reported aboard the ill-fated craft when it

lost an engine on take-off from Chicago's busy O'Hare International Airport.

Described as the worst disaster in U.S. aviation history, the crash took the lives of all aboard.

Dr. Kuykendall, a former Vacaville resident, recently moved to Sacramento.

He joined the Air Force in San Antonio eight years ago and came to Travis AFB in May, 1973.

Circumstances of Friday's crash are still under investigation.

The silver, blue and red DC-10 wide-bodied jetliner reportedly had just gotten into

the air from O'Hare when it lost a left wing engine, veered and plunged to the ground near a mobile home park about 1 1/2 miles from the runway. At least three residents of the mobile home park suffered injuries from flying debris.

Air Force spokesmen were unable to determine what Kuykendall and his wife were doing in Chicago.

An unofficial source told The Reporter that Kuykendall may have been considering retirement from the military and establishing a private practice in the East.

The Reporter, May 27, 1979



1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

# CMF home to notorious outlaws

## Manson, Corona amid cons

By Karen Nolan  
Reporter correspondent

Some of the most notorious criminals in California passed through the gates of the California Medical Facility, which in the 1970s stood two miles south of Vacaville.

Mass murderer Edmund Kemper III, convicted of killing eight Santa Cruz County women — one of them his mother — arrived in 1973 and soon began pleading with Solano County's courts to be allowed to undergo psychosurgery to cut the violent tendencies from his brain. Time and again his request was rejected.

Richard Schoenfeld, who in 1976 buried a bus full of schoolchildren in Chowchilla, was sent to CMF after his 1978 kidnapping conviction.

A year later, Dan White — the San Francisco supervisor for whom Twinkies and handguns did not mix — was evaluated at CMF following his 1979 voluntary manslaughter conviction in the killings of fellow supervisor Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. His stay was brief. He was sent on to Soledad.

Former Harvard psychologist Timothy Leary — the LSD-advocating, "turn on, tune in, drop out" guru of the 1960s — didn't stay long either. Serving time for possessing marijuana, as well as his 1970 escape from the Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo, he arrived in November 1973 and disappeared in May 1974. Speculation that he had left to talk to the FBI about his friends in the Weather Underground was finally confirmed in 1999.

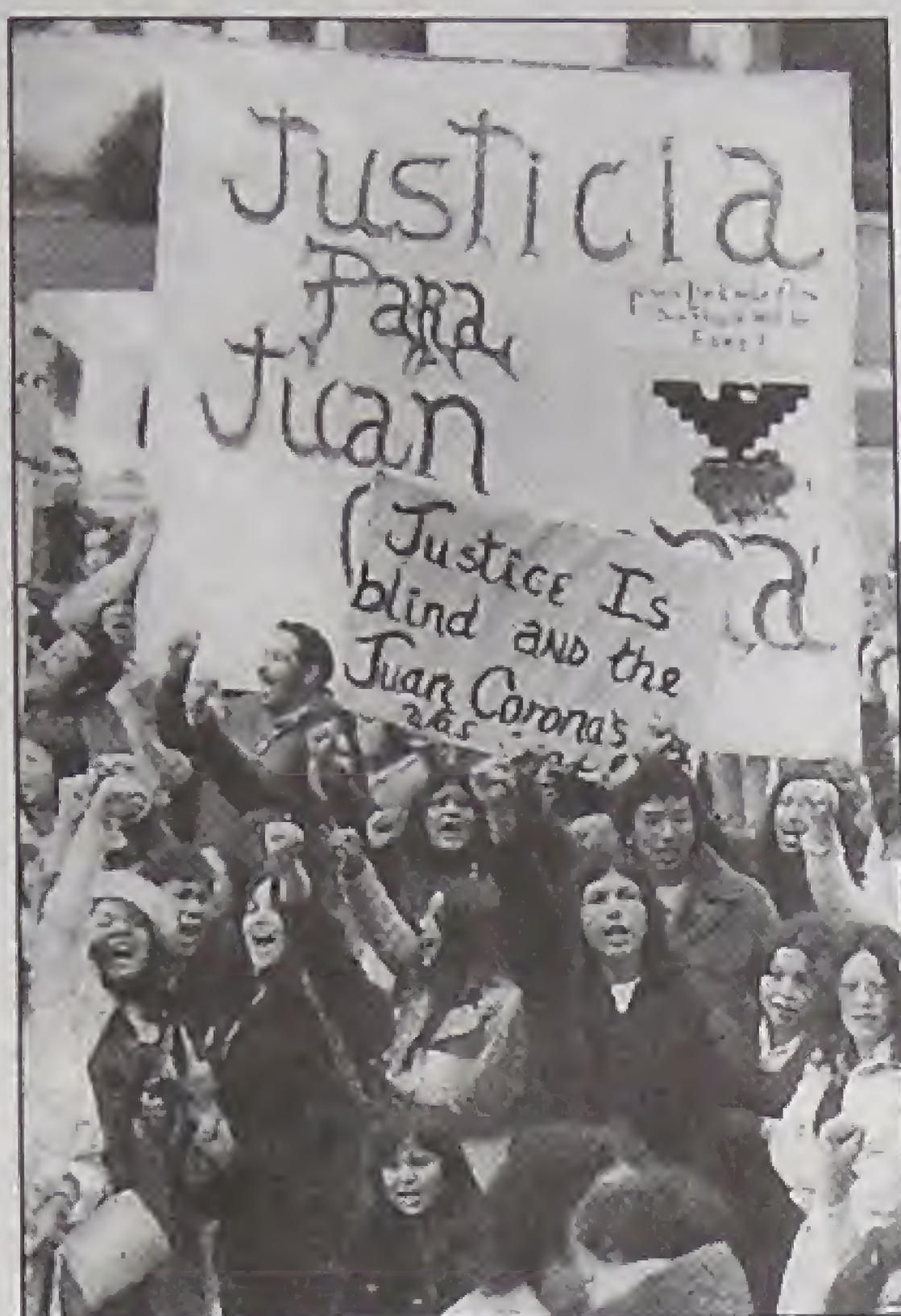
Leary stayed long enough for his wife to plan his escape, a 1975 Playboy Magazine story revealed. The plan, which "collapsed on its absurdity," called for sending in two helicopters, one decorated with mirrors and lights to look like a UFO and the other outfitted like a military chopper giving chase.

Escapes real and imagined were linked to the Symbionese Liberation Army, which was born at CMF in 1972, when Donald "Field Marshal Cinque" deFreeze was incarcerated there.

Soon after the SLA kid-



**Juan Corona (above), accused of killing two dozen farmworkers, was held at CMF. His trial in Fairfield drew Latino protests (right).**



Reporter file photos

napped San Francisco newspaper heiress Patty Hearst in February 1974, her father, Randolph A. Hearst, came to CMF to meet with associates of deFreeze. It was a futile effort to find his daughter.

deFreeze and five other SLA members were killed during a shootout at their Los Angeles hideout in May 1974 — more than a year before Hearst, who had been converted to their cause, was found.

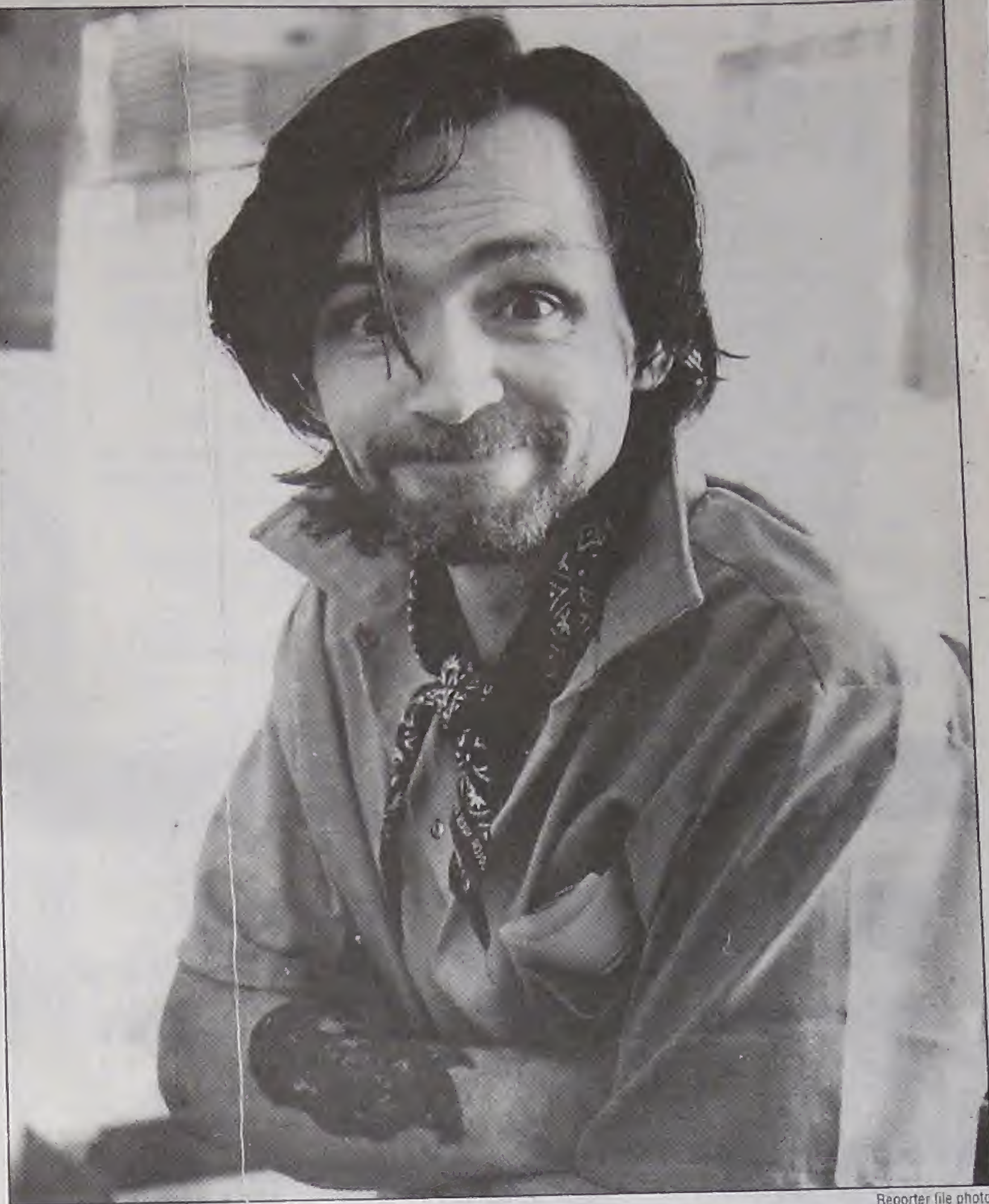
Soon after the kidnapping, The Reporter carried stories about an SLA plan to blow up two CMF guard towers in the summer of 1973. That plan wasn't carried out, but years later it was learned that the SLA did pull off at least one escape that summer: Its members drove away inmate Thero Wheeler when he walked off an honor crew outside the wall.

Ironically, the getaway car got stuck in a ditch and a CMF employee helped to free it — before Wheeler got inside.

Authorities completely discounted late decade reports that tried to link the SLA to another CMF inmate, Charles Manson.

The leader of a drug-using "family" of drifters who killed seven people, including actress Sharon Tate, Manson arrived at CMF for psychiatric treatment in March 1974. When evidence of an escape plot came to light in September, he was quickly sent to Folsom. But just as a CMF psychiatrist predicted at the time, Manson was eventually returned to CMF for more treatment.

It was during his second stint here that a fellow inmate accused him of threatening to kill President Jimmy Carter's



Reporter file photo

**Charles Manson (above) was among the most notorious inmates at CMF during the 1970s. He lived at the Vacaville prison for a number of years before being transferred to another prison.**

mother, Miss Lillian. The accuser was Carter's "bad peanut" nephew, William Carter Spann, who was at CMF serving time for armed robbery.

Another CMF resident who garnered news coverage throughout the decade was Juan Corona. The farm labor contractor accused of hacking to death 25 migrant workers outside Yuba City was housed at the prison when his trial was moved to Solano County in 1973.

Two Vacaville residents served on the jury that first convicted Corona of what at the time was called the largest mass murder in U.S. history.

The trial also attracted the attention of Chicano and Mexican-American protesters, who

believed Corona was not being dealt with fairly. They demonstrated continuously outside the Fairfield courthouse. One night after his conviction, they came to Vacaville to support Corona's mother, who spoke at St. Mary's Catholic Church about the effort to secure a new trial.

Corona began serving his life sentence at CMF, and it was there that he was nearly stabbed to death by fellow inmates in December 1973. He lost the sight in his left eye as a result, and was transferred to Soledad.

When Corona finally won a new trial in 1978, he was returned to CMF until the proceedings were moved to Alameda County, where he was again

convicted in 1982.

CMF made other headlines during the decade. Its program for handling transsexuals came under fire in 1978 when a national magazine raised taxpayer hackles by pointing out that the state was paying for hormones and bras.

Another program that had allowed pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies to test products on inmates since the 1960s, came to light in the mid-70s, raising eyebrows when the CIA was linked to some of those tests. By the time the program was shut down in 1980, however, the local worry was that the 850 paid inmate guinea pigs would turn violent when they lost their "jobs."



Reporter file photos

## To build a park

Descendants of Thomas Trower, a contractor who came to Vacaville in 1873, try out playground equipment at Trower Park in March 1979 (left). On the swings (from left) are Edith Trower and Thomas Trower's grandchildren Winnie Howell and Lloyd Trower. Standing (from left) are Trower's great-grandchildren, Chuck, Charles and Jean Hoover. Above, Thomas Trower descendants and city dignitaries gather for the dedication in March 1979.

## Soviet leaders at Nut Tree

As omnipresent U.S. Secret Service men hovered in the background, Vacaville and the Nut Tree suddenly became a symbol of Western commerce and American food Saturday when eight top echelon members of the Soviet Union's Supreme Soviet, their delegation and local hosts joined together for luncheon.

Under a tight lid of security watched over by the Secret Service and a corps of Solano County Sheriff's Deputies, some 21 members of a delegation to the United States made a scheduled stop at the Nut Tree before traveling on to Sacramento in the afternoon to confer with Governor Ronald Reagan.

Emerging from one of several black limousines to greet a reception line of invited guests was Boris N. Ponomarev, the head of the delegation and the chairman of the Communist Party's Foreign Affairs Committee. All the delegates represented the USSR Politburo, a powerful cabinet-like group that sits at the top of the Supreme Soviet — a governing group compared to the U.S. Congress.

The Reporter  
May 28, 1974



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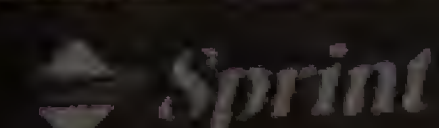
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1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY



Vacaville Heritage Council

## Reciting the pledge

Local dignitaries and attendees recite the Pledge of Allegiance during a Memorial Day event held in Andrews Park in 1971. The band shell was taken down from the stage in the downtown Vacaville park later on in the 1970s.

## Local schools navigate through turbulent times

By Julie Davidow  
Staff Writer

Smooth sailing was not ahead for the Vacaville Unified School District during its first full decade of existence.

Reminiscent of today's most pressing concerns, officials struggled throughout the 1970s to keep pace with Vacaville's burgeoning population. Repeatedly, they asked voters to approve tax increases to pay for new facilities.

Bond measures, however, continually fell flat at the ballot box, and school officials were left to search for alternative ways to keep the district financially afloat.

For the first time in its six-year history, the district plunged into the red in 1971 after enrollment fell short of an anticipated increase.

The numbers actually dropped from the previous year, slashing funding from Sacramento and nullifying the usefulness of six freshly hired teachers.

Attempting to plug the drain of funds, the district reassigned the new staff members to classes where other teachers were temporarily absent, rather than hiring long-term substitutes.

Shuffling teachers in the middle of the school year meant students were shuffled as well, sparking a heated reaction from parents.

The district responded by establishing four citizen committees to study the desperate financial situation.

In response to continuing money problems, trustees voted in August 1973 to end student transportation, prompting some kids to arrive for the first day of school on horses. Facing outrage from the district's rural residents, the board eventually voted to reinstate busing.

Frustrated by Vacaville's fifth failed bond attempt in six years, Superintendent Clarence Krawczak blasted voters for not turning out on election day in August 1973.

"I have more respect for the 'no' voters than I do for those who stayed home," he said.

Learning their lesson after 1973's miserable defeat, which was largely due to the Solano County Taxpayers Association's organized opposition, school officials invited input from the group before asking for another tax hike.

"In previous elections, the board made a decision and then asked for public support," Krawczak said in 1974. "This time we'd like to have the support of the people first, then decide accordingly."

By the mid-1970s, the growth school officials had expected earlier in the decade began to materialize. In 1975, enrollment hit a record high of 7,702 students, but city planners showed little compassion for the over-burdened campuses, declaring "the school problem is not our fault."

Nevertheless, voters continued to reject bond measures until 1976, when they approved a \$3.6 million bond for school construction after a study predicted the student population would increase by 15 percent in the next four years.

The tax hike was intended to pay for two new elementary schools to ease overcrowding at Hemlock, Padan and Fairmont elementary schools; a new gymnasium and vocational education shop at Willis Jepson Middle School; and a multi-purpose room and sewage system at Elmira Elementary.

However, in 1977, the district revealed the bond amount left them \$700,000 short for the proposed projects.

The bond did pay for two new elementary schools — Sierra Vista and Orchard, both built in 1979.

No doubt some of the district's difficulties in the '70s were fueled by a lack of stable leadership.

Between 1965 — when the district unified — and 1979, the district went through three superintendents, one of whom, Krawczak, refused to resign after being repeatedly asked to step down.

"During the past decade, personality conflicts, trustees who have an ax to grind and a lack of leadership have figured into the situation," said The Reporter in 1977.

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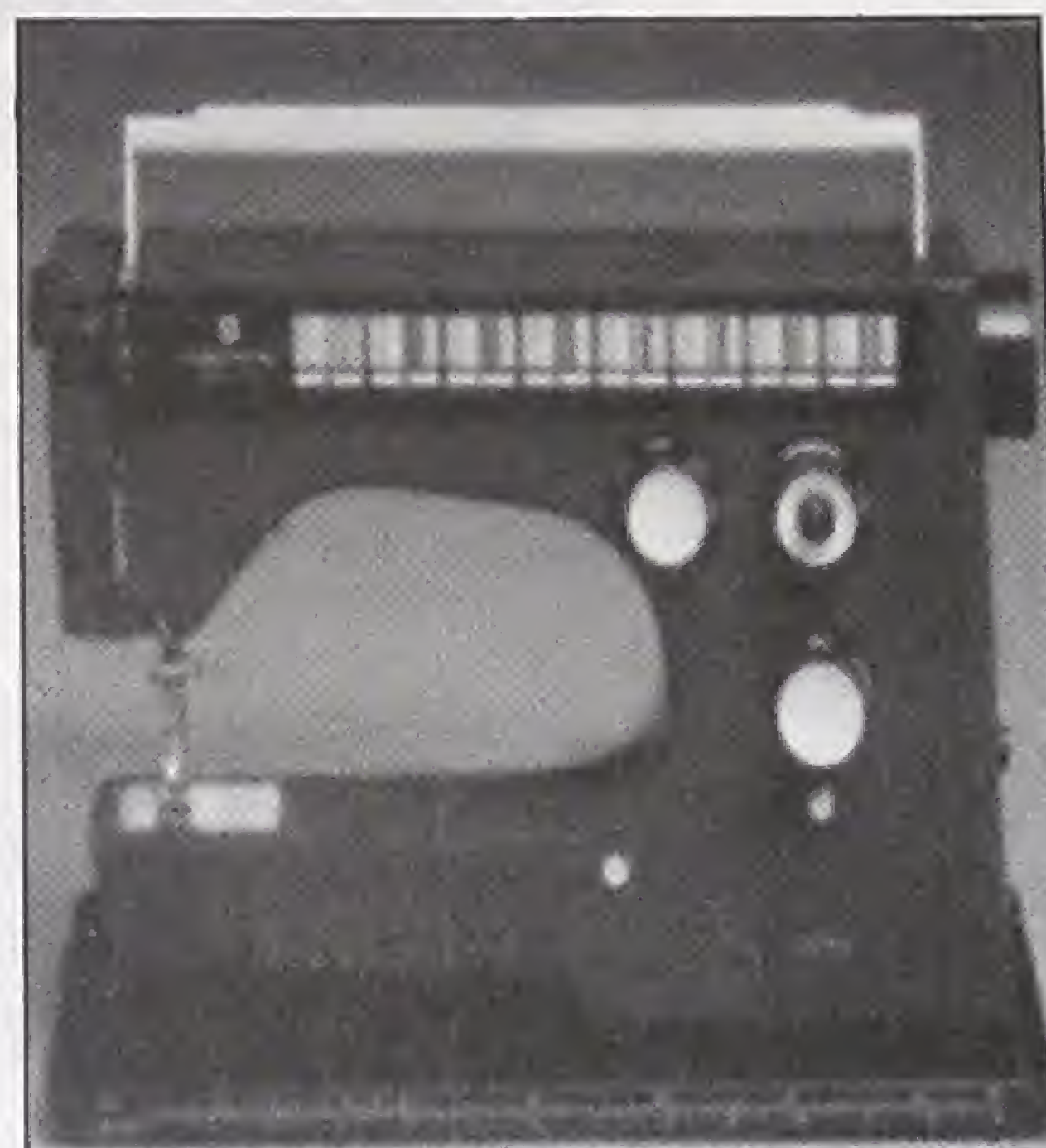


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## Sew Groovy



1971

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1972

Some variants of the 2000 model were manufactured in cast iron. In 1972 Husqvarna launched a sewing machine made completely of die cast aluminum. The first model was named Compact. It was developed successively, both as regards to design and construction, and finally renamed Vanessa.

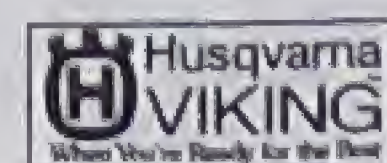
1976

The 2000 models also started to be manufactured in aluminum in 1976 and were called 6460. However, this was soon to be regarded as a less significant developmental phase; as early as 1977 Husqvarna stepped into the age of electronics. The model 5710 in the Vanessa series was equipped with electronic speed control. At the end of the year the electronically controlled stop-ribs was introduced. The model was called 6570.

1979

In 1979 Husqvarna's technicians felt that they had tested a model, which went under the development name "The computer sewing machine," long enough. This model was to be called 6680 and here Husqvarna utilized a micro-computer to electronically guide the formation of the stitch patterns. Through 6680 Husqvarna could once again make its mark as the company which lead sewing machine development. Husqvarna had in one go made it supremely easy to sew and at the same time constructed a machine with less moving parts with superior durability as the result.

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## 1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

## Saving Vaca's heritage

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

Americans were looking back in the 1970s, as the country prepared to celebrate its 200th birthday.

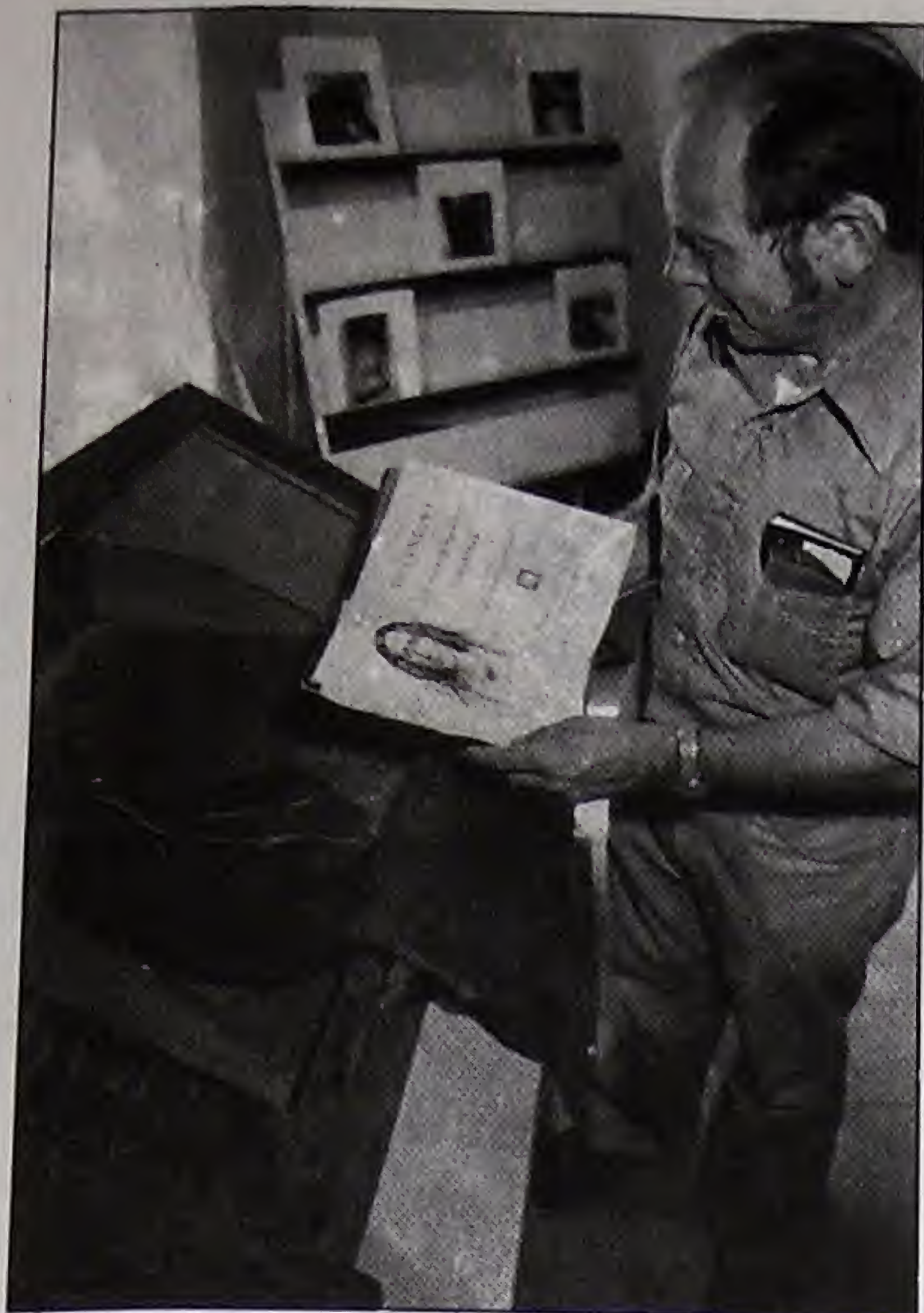
But even before CBS television's nightly "Bicentennial Minute" began to pique our interest in history, some Vacaville residents were working to preserve the community's heritage.

In 1970, volunteers from the Vacaville Heritage Council restored the Old Town Hall, which had served as a police headquarters, judge's chambers and jail since being built in 1907. Once repaired, it became the council's headquarters.

Others worked throughout the decade to save pieces of Vacaville's past. Art Dietz donated a valuable, antique clothes-iron collection to the city in December 1977, but there was no museum in which to display it.

Why, questioned John Rico in a February 1978 editorial in The Reporter, would this community work so hard to preserve its trees but not its historical homes? He suggested the Old Town Hall would be the perfect location for a museum and urged readers to support the effort. Later that year, volunteers who had cleaned and repaired the building were pleased to report that the Old Town Hall had been accepted onto the National Register of Historical Places, making it eligible for preservation funds.

When the city's planning commission began looking to rezone a part of the downtown area in 1978, several residents spoke out against the move. Too many historical buildings already



Robert "Bob" Allen, Vacaville Heritage Council president, flips through historical materials in the old Town Hall in 1979.

Reporter file photo

had been lost, they argued, including the First Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1892 and razed in 1962 to make way for the Safeway store.

Velma Fruhling, a longtime Vacaville resident and teacher at Willis Jepson Junior High, spoke out against the rezoning and became an advocate of preserving the former Willis Jepson home, located at the northwest corner of Main and Cernon streets. The house still stands today.

To celebrate Vacaville's centennial, the City Council set aside \$20,000 to produce an official history. The project was undertaken by two professors of history from the University of Pacific, Dr. Ron Limbaugh, brother of the 1990s talk radio icon Rush Limbaugh,

and Dr. Walter Payne. The book, "Vacaville: The Heritage of a California Community," was unveiled at a special party in December 1978.

By the end of the decade, the hunt was still on for an official museum. A nine-member museum task force was appointed by the City Council in early 1978. By December 1979, the group was called the Vacaville Museum Commission and was being led by Eleanor Nelson. The commission was looking at a number of potential sites, it reported, and predicted the effort would take "a few years to mature." The group's efforts were helped tremendously by an anonymous gift of \$20,000 later that month.

## '70s shortages, high costs force Vacans to struggle

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

After the flush economic '50s and '60s, the 1970s were a rude awakening. Rising inflation was putting the pinch on many pocketbooks, but because of countless strikes, shortages and boycotts, anyone lucky enough to have money might not be able to find things to spend it on.

The shortage that had the most far-reaching impact was the energy crisis of the early 1970s.

When the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, formed in 1973 to control the world's oil prices, President Nixon appealed to citizens to conserve. The state lowered its top speed limit, first from 80 mph to 65 mph, then to 55 mph, and area gas stations complied by closing stations on Sundays, starting in November 1973. With gasoline in short supply, locking gas caps became the rage, and by the end of the year, Hershel Phillips at Klotz Auto Supply noted the store's entire supply was depleted.

The energy crisis had other repercussions. Residents that winter were encouraged to turn down the heat and turn off the lights. With fewer motorists hitting the road, the local motels were feeling the pinch in December 1973. That holiday season, residents were also encouraged to cut back on their use of Christmas lights. But that didn't dampen holiday spirits when it came time for The Reporter's annual holiday decorating contest. H.K. Wallace won \$50 for his lightless design.

Odd-even days, determined by the last digit on the license plate, dictated when gasoline could be bought, and the lines were always long. That edict continued through April 1974.

Milk prices were inching up in February 1973, from 28 1/2 to 29 1/2 cents per quart.

A "meatless week" was declared by consumers angry about rising beef prices. Cross-rib roast was up to \$1.49 a pound and rib-end port chops were 99 cents a pound at Albertson's that week. The boycott resulted in a 30 percent drop in local meat sales.

A shortage of beer? With a drivers' strike

pending in July 1973 that, too, was a possibility.

The price of coffee and tea skyrocketed in December 1976, up to \$2.27 a pound from \$1.17 a pound a year earlier. The hike was fueled in part by a frost that damaged South America coffee beans, and by the New Year, restaurants were adding a nickel to the price of a cup.

With a drought looming, water was also in short supply. Vacans joined the effort to cut back on their water use in early 1977, and managed to do so by as much as 15 percent. In February 1977, supervisors OK'd a plan to seed clouds, in hopes of bringing rain. At the request of City Hall, restaurants stopped automatically serving water.

As winter gave way to summer, the issue of how to stay cool with restrictions on water was addressed in May 1977. The City Council considered an idea to require residents who built a pool to truck in their own water. Mayor Barbara Jones and council members Bill Carroll and Carolyn Van Loo were in favor.

Vacaville sweated out two years without water. Then the rains came. On Nov. 21, 1977, Vacaville endured the heaviest downpour—nearly five inches in one day—in two years. By January 1978, it was still raining and people were complaining, but there was more on the way, The Reporter warned.

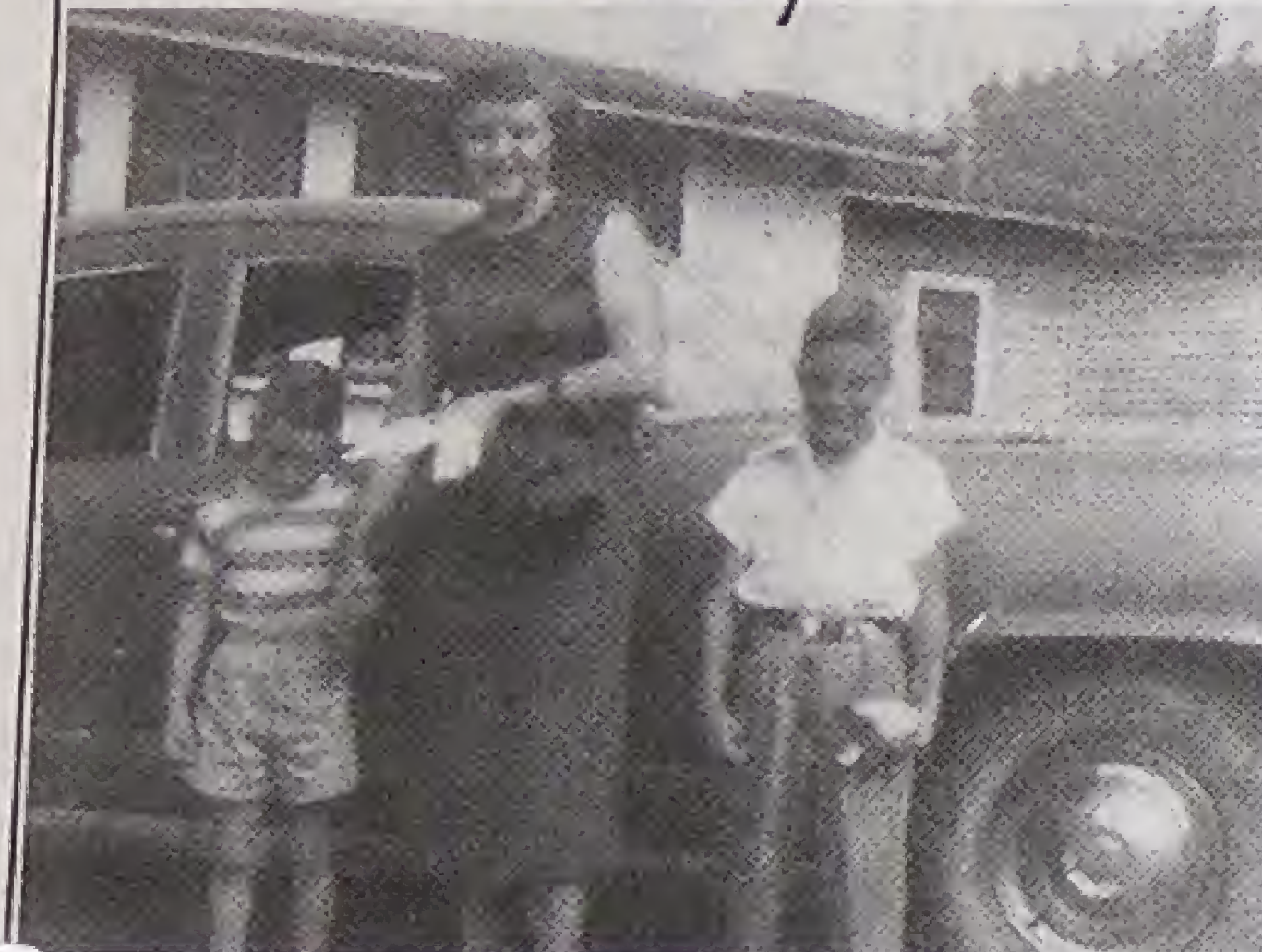
Lettuce was being called "green gold" in April 1978, when it sold for 98 cents a head. Tomatoes followed suit. The post office began charging 15 cents for a stamp in May 1978. Utility bills and tempers both rose in January 1979. But now that it was raining again, everyone wanted a pool—causing a shortage of cement.

The gas crisis returned in 1979, but this time people weren't buying it. Solano County supervisors Wally Brazelton and Osby Davis, reportedly furious when Gov. Jerry Brown revived the odd-even gas plan, called the whole crisis a contrived emergency. Local station owners organized a protest, but then voted to delay it.

As a harbinger of the coming decade, inflation hit an "incredible" 15 percent in May 1979, and The Reporter ran a series of interviews with local financial experts to help readers "Learn How to Play the Money Game."

## A PART OF HISTORY

### "Always A Car Buff"

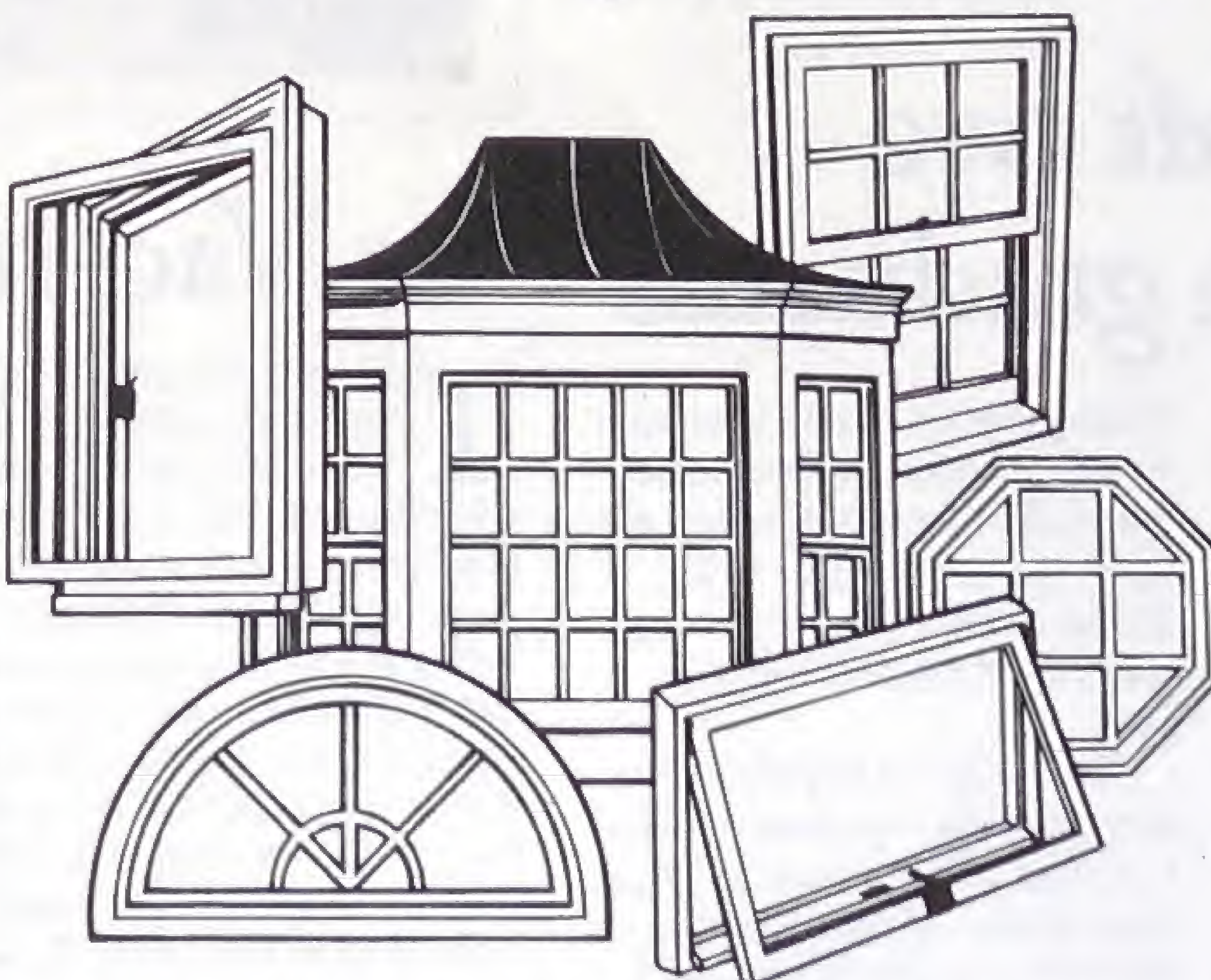


Monty, Mom and Ron

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1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

## Ex-Vaca star to play football with Broncos

George Robert Biggs just might become the first young man from Vacaville to ever play professional football.

Bob, who led the nation's small college division passers as quarterback for the champion Far Western Conference University of California at Davis Aggies this past season, has received "feelers" from the Denver Broncos in the American Football League and Winnipeg in the Canadian League.

Biggs, who played on two of Vacaville High's three consecutive Delta League crown squads from 1967-69, still holds the record of completing 90 passes for 1268 yards in one season at the local high school. This was just a flicker of an indication of what was to come as Bob topped the National Collegiate Athletic Association Small College statistics with 213 completions for an awesome 2679 yards at UC Davis this year.

Disappointed when he was overlooked in the winter pro football drafts, Biggs will receive a belated opportunity play for pay.

Jim Doan, the Mustangs' sports information director, announced the school's best-ever signal-caller is about to ink a contract with the Denver Broncos.

Myrel Moore, a former UCD player and assistant coach who works with ex-Stanford Coach John Ralston on the Bronco staff, talked with Biggs on the phone Friday. Moore told Bob he is sending him a contract and plane ticket to participate in the rookie camp drills on March 22-24.

Biggs, a 6-foot, 175-pounder, went through a passing workout with former UCD gridder Artis

*"Disappointed when he was overlooked in the winter pro football drafts, Biggs will receive a belated opportunity play for pay."*

Phillips of Sacramento in the school gym early last week while Ralston visited the campus. Ralston was impressed with the Little-All-American.

The Far Western Conference and Northern California college small college division back of the year, Bob received a partial break when Penn State's John Hufnagel failed to agree to Bronco terms and indicated he may play in the Canadian League. Ralston's quarterbacking crew is questionable with Charlie Johnson, Steve Ramsey and Mike Ernst returning.

"It bothers me when people say I'm too small by size and weight, without looking at game films they don't get a true indication of how good a person might be," Biggs said in a chat with the Vacaville Reporter last night.

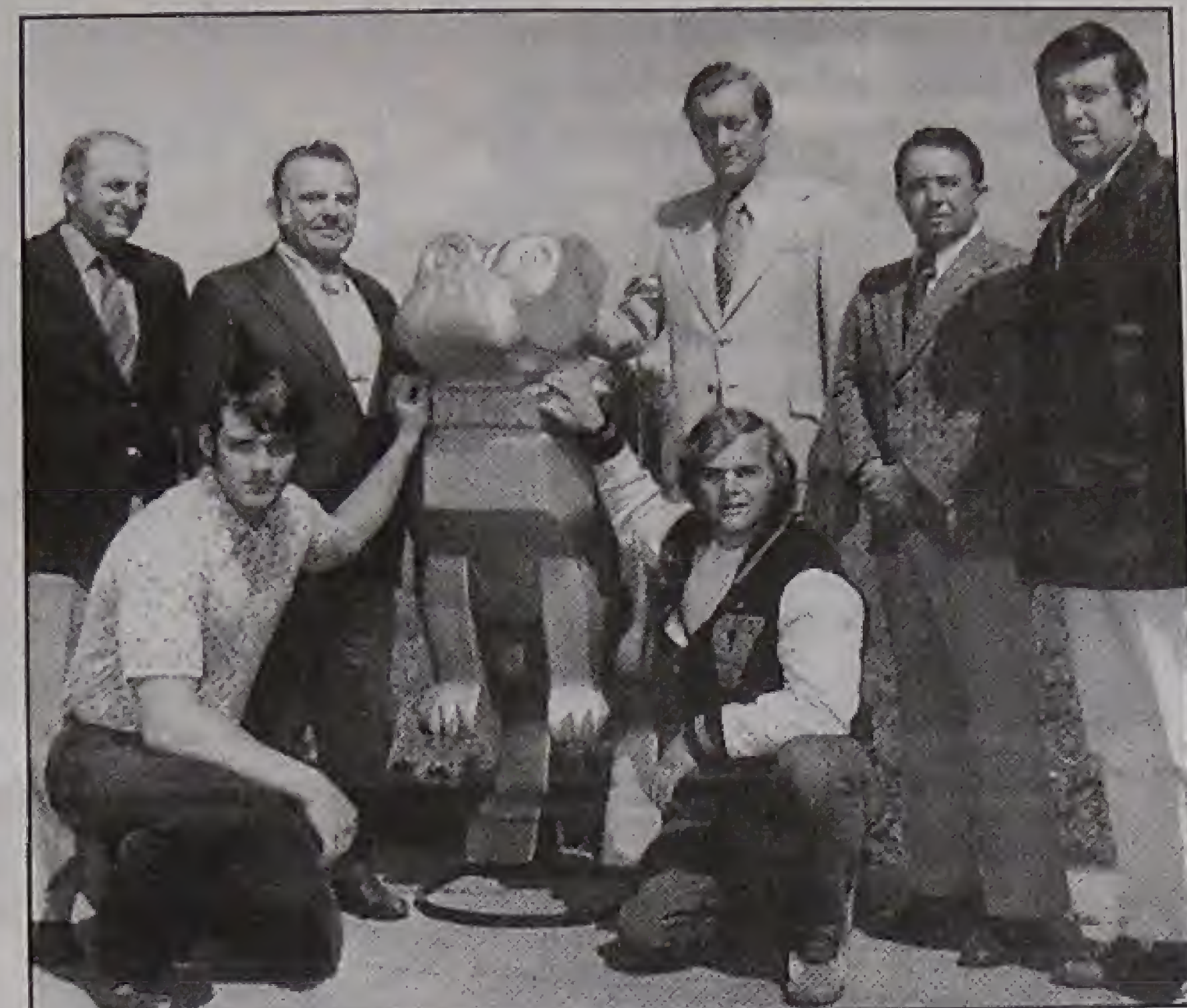
"Both (Denver and Winnipeg) have offered contracts, and it just depends on whether I make either team, but right now I'm going to the rookie camp in Denver to see what my chances are before making up my mind."

"I'm just happy someone is going to give me a chance to try out even if I don't make it," Biggs, who is a political science and history major with aims on a law degree, concluded.

By Joe Singleton III,  
Sports Editor  
The Reporter, March 5, 1973



Vacaville Heritage Council



## Love of the game

Vacaville High Bulldog Tom Murphy (above) looks particularly fierce in this 1973 photo. As now, football was an important part of high school life. At left, players and alumni gather around Mack, the school mascot, carted out for games. Longtime football coach and athletic director Tom Zunino is at right in the photo.

## Giants draft two Vaca High graduates

Mike Henley and Ben Heise of Vacaville were drafted by the San Francisco Giants professional baseball club in the annual summer free agent draft completed Friday in New York.

The pair of 18-year-old youths thus received a great graduation "present" since both received diplomas Friday afternoon in ceremonies at Vacaville High School.

Henley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. (Bud) Henley, 153 Deodara St. The latter's brother, Bob, is already performing as shortstop for the Giants.

Named Vaca High's most valuable player as he led the Bulldogs to their second straight Delta League championship, Henley, a lefthanded pitcher-first baseman, posted an 8-2 record on the mound during the 1970 season. When Vacaville competed in the post season Capital Valley Conference Tournament of Champions in Sacra-

mento, Henley pitched his team to two victories, led the club in runs batted in with four and was the fifth highest hitter in the tourney with a hot .449 average. His earned run average was 1.50.

Heise was the third highest slugger in the tournament with a sizzling .556 mark and he stole three bases. He set a tourney record for 11 assists as a shortstop for the locals.

When Coach Reese Dick was contacted to comment on the selection by the Giants of two of his players, he has the following to say about the two young men:

"I brought both of them up to the varsity as sophomores three years ago. Even then they had enough talent and ability to compete at the varsity level. It is difficult for sophomores to compete with juniors and seniors."

By Joe Singleton III,  
Sports Editor  
The Reporter, June 8, 1970

## Pair throws discus records

Dave Powell broke the National 16 year old age group record for the college discus when he competed in an All-Comers Track and Field Meet Saturday at Solano Community College.

The Vacaville High School senior-to-be hurled the discus 160-4 to snap the record of 157-8, held by Harold Banich of Arvado, Colorado. Powell also recorded a 158-7 effort during the competition.

Larry Kennedy of San Jose and an AAU official took first place in the Open discus competition with an outstanding toss of 211-1. Kennedy competed in the Eugene, Oregon Olympic

Trials, but barely missed making the United States Olympic team. Former Vacaville High School standout and National Prep discus record holder Ray Burton turned in his best ever effort by placing second with a 204-2 toss.

Burton's effort is believed to be the best throw ever by a 20 year old.

Powell also won the 16 year old high school discus age group competition with a personal best of 197-4. He hopes to break the National record for 16 year olds before he turns 17 in two weeks. The record is 186-11.

The Reporter  
July 21, 1976

## Ex-Vacan breaks in with Angels

The road along the way had many detours, but David Sells of Vacaville will finally get his chance to play major league baseball.

A fireballing righthander, with a good slider and a sinking fast ball, Sells was informed by the California Angels yesterday that he was being called up by the parent club from Salt Lake City where he has performed admirably in the Pacific Coast League.

Originally signed up by the San Francisco Giants in 1966, Sells was dealt away to the Angels and has spent all of his professional baseball career in

the minors up until now.

Dave, who stands 5-10 and weighs a solid 170 pounds, has seen most of his duty as a relief hurler and he has "put out the fire" of opposing clubs on numerous occasions.

A 1965 graduate of Vacaville High School where he was one of few youths ever to make the varsity as a freshman, Sells had a fine 10-5 record for Salt Lake. He was credited with 11 saves and a 3.04 earned run average to stamp himself as the Pacific Coast League's ace reliever.

Manager Del Rice of the Angels stated he plans to use Sells, age 25, in late inning relief stints.

The Reporter  
July 27, 1972

## Football light fund scores TD

Let there be lights.

The fate of Vacaville High School football was literally brought out of the darkness this week with the happy news the Vaca High Light Fund Committee has met its goal of \$10,000 in community contributions, and then some.

Come May 6, Dick Coffey, light fund chairman who has spearheaded the fund-raising the past several months, will lay his report before the Unified School Board of Education to serve notice the community has fulfilled its part of the bargain. Faced with the California Interscholastic Federation ultimatum of coming up with brighter stadium lights or face the prospect of daytime football

this Fall, the school board and Chamber of Commerce launched the fund-raising project.

The school board agreed to allocate up to \$29,000 from its community service fund, a state-regulated fund which can only be used for community recreation and pupil supervision during lunchtime. It cannot be used for education purposes.

The only proviso in the allocation was that the community had to come up with at least \$10,000 more if the estimated cost of \$40,000 for new lights was to be met.

The Reporter  
May 2, 1974

## Ex-Vaca High standout regionally ranked

Watching Gene Ray working out, throwing sidekicks into a 200 pound punching bag, is extremely impressive. It's also frightening.

While watching the 5'11", 180 pounder workout, the realization of power, which could cause instant death to a human, was startling. The quickness and force of Ray's foot hitting the punching bag with such impact

that the hanging bag doubled time after time.

Ray, remembered by most Vacaville residents as an outstanding wrestler and football player, recently captured the 1975 California State Kajukenbo Championships in the heavy-weight black belt division. In doing so, the 23 year old Ray set a few never equalled records — at 181 pounds he was one of the smallest to win and by being

Caucasian, he was a minority in winning.

"I remember when I first got into kajukenbo three years ago," recalls Ray, "I walked into the class and I was the only white there. The rest were brown or black. But the sport is really catching on and a lot of whites are getting involved."

By Tom Mauldin, Sports Editor  
The Reporter, May 11, 1975

## Soccer comes to Vaca

Formation of a Vacaville soccer team called "La Familia" has been announced by Felipe Cueva of this city and coach Edmundo Lopez of Fairfield.

The team is open to all local boys age 6 through 16 and it is hoped that the squad will become skilled enough to join a league to compete against teams already playing competitively in Dixon, Fairfield, Sacramento and Stockton.

La Familia is sponsored by Comite Civico Mexicano which sponsors the Mexican Independence Day celebration here each Sept. 16.

If enough girls show an interest a team for them will be formed, according to Maria Cueva, who is serving as spokeswoman for the soccer group.

All player candidates need is a pair of soccer shoes. Practices are held each Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Vacaville High School and there is no fee to join. Those who show enough potential to be regular squad members will be furnished uniforms.

Practice drills include passing the ball without using the hands. Feet, chests, heads and other parts of the body may be used to move the ball downfield, but only the goalie can use his hands to prevent the ball from being moved across the goal line in this variation of football.

The Reporter  
Aug. 26, 1974

## Bowler wins pro tourney

Jim Remacle isn't your average bowler.

He bowls no less than 50 games a week just to stay in shape.

All that bowling, however, is starting to pay off for Solano County's top bowler — and most recently to the tune of \$800.

Remacle captured the Rheem Valley classic a week ago to put his total winnings for the year at \$1,100. The Rheem Valley event is one leg on the Professional Central California Bowler's Association part-time tour.

Remacle captured the Rheem Valley event by out-bowling 200 other entries and totaled over 4,200 pins in the two day tournament in 20 games. He averaged 219 for 12 games on Saturday in qualifying for the finals.

In Saturday's qualifying round, Remacle was in first until the final match of the day when beaten and pushed back to fourth. But the top 24 finishers qualify for the big money the following day and the way Jim went about winning couldn't have been topped even by ABC's Professional Bowler's Association events.

Remacle finished Sunday's semi-finals in fourth place, good enough to get him another shot at the top award. He proceeded to defeat the fifth place finisher, 205-264, and knocked off the third place finisher 243-176, to set the stage for two heart stopping matches to win it all.

The Reporter  
Feb. 10, 1975

## Wrestlers tie in nationals

The Vacaville Boys' Club gained country-wide recognition by tying with Sandia, N.M., for first place in the National Invitational Freestyle Wrestling Championships held Thursday through Saturday in San Francisco's Civic Auditorium.

Two competitors for the local club — Ron Packer and Dave King — were crowned champions of their respective weight classes.

The Reporter  
April 23, 1977



## 1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY



Vacaville Heritage Council

## Working to re-elect the president

Members of the city's Committee to Re-elect the President, a group also known to some as CREEPs, met for the first time in 1972. They are, from left: Sue Smith, co-office manager; George Yakur, precinct captain and finance chairman; David Lucchesi,

Vacaville chairman to re-elect the president; Jackie Geilhausen, co-office manager; Shirley Nelson, precinct worker; and Ethel Hoskins, precinct worker. The office was on Merchant Street. Seventeen of the city's 19 precincts voted for Nixon.

## Vacan works next door to history

If there were ever a summer to be in Washington D.C., it was the summer of '74. Watergate, Nixon, Impeachment. Resignation, Ford, the historical drum-roll of events made Washington the capital of the world. Television brought it home to living rooms and gave outsiders a front-row seat, but being there was breathing it. For Vacaville's Michael Gonzalez, his summer internship in Washington landed him in the right city at the right time to rub shoulders with history.

Gonzalez, 19, a '73 graduate of Vaca High and the son of local businessman Michael Gonzalez, carved out his summer niche in Washington by working as an intern in the House Library in the Canon Building through an appointment by Congressman Robert Leggett. Gonzalez' uncle, Owen Chaffee, is an administrative aide to Leggett.

Unlike some interns, Gonzalez went to

the nation's capital more interested in a job than in politics. He had never been one to stay up nights discussing Watergate and its ramifications. But then, too, Washington had never seen a turn of events like that of the summer of '74. Like everyone else in Washington, Gonzalez realized that what was happening was not your basic political science course.

"It really was an historic time," reflected Gonzalez, who is beginning his sophomore year at Chico State. "One of the most historic times ever I guess. It's not everybody that's lucky enough to be in Washington, right next door to it all, especially working there. Toward the end, all that people were talking about was when Nixon would resign. Most of the people I worked with were Democrats, and they wanted Nixon out."

"And I wanted him out, too, I think he should have resigned long before. I'm a

Republican, but I think I'm going to change now. I think Watergate made a lot of people change their attitude toward part affiliation."

When Nixon resigned and leaving the presidency to Ford, Gonzalez was working in the Capitol. "Most everybody I talked to said they thought it was a great thing that Nixon was out and Ford was president, both Republicans and Democrats."

One of the most impressive sights Gonzalez witnessed was the changing of the guard at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. "They change every half hour, round the clock. Those guys all wear full military uniform, gloves, sleeves, rifles, the works. And they gotta keep marching. You could see the sweat just pouring off their faces. ..."

The Reporter, Sept. 5, 1974

## Vaca High grad protects nation's fallen president

The closest Roland Soliz ever got to American politics was when he was elected president of the Vacaville High School Student Body. That was in 1965.

In 1976, he still isn't into politics in the literal sense, but to world leaders he and other men like him are indispensable. They operate on the political periphery, behind the scenes, in the shadows.

Roland Soliz is a Secret Service agent.

More notably, for the past two years the "Vacaville boy" has been assigned to protect America's most controversial president, now living in near-seclusion in San Clemente — Richard M. Nixon.

At this point the basic question might be, "How does a lifelong Vacaville resident get from student body president at Vaca High to a position of safe-guarding the man whose alleged political carryings-on via Watergate became a shot heard 'round the world?'"

The basic answer might be, "It wasn't easy," and the story would be over.

But there's more. There were a few stops along the way, like the time he ran for his life through the halls of UC Berkeley after he had been discovered by radical students for a Democratic Society as being an undercover cop.

There were "details" he pulled as a Secret Service agent, accompanying Leonid Brezhnev on a tour of the U.S.; protecting Ferdinand Marcus of the Philippines on a diplomatic visit; being a member of a team that "monitored" activities of Secretary of the Treasury George Schultz while on tour of South America. Not to mention being one of those obscure figures in the background when Nixon himself made his most recent, "unofficial" trip to China in February of this year.

All that happened in the past

five years, but it says little about the young man who attended all of Vacaville schools (he came here with his family at the age of three) and went through classes at Ulatis School, Willis Jepson and was graduated from Vaca High.

For the next three years Soliz attended Cal State, Sacramento where he studied for a political science degree. Before his fourth year he moved to Berkeley after being accepted into the Berkeley Police Department Academy, the first step toward fulfilling a lifelong ambition of entering law enforcement. While serving on the force, he could also attend UC to complete his work toward his PS degree.

In 1974 Soliz was assigned to the "President Nixon detail" at San Clemente and, although being careful about what he says about the movements of the former president, is one of several men who probably sees more of Nixon and his immediate family than anyone else in government today.

The only close-up Soliz could give about Nixon is that when he accompanies him on any trip away from the estate, "we talk mostly about football. Former President Nixon loves football, especially the Washington Redskins." The agents never discuss politics or anything "official," Soliz was quick to say.

There are two things Roland Soliz takes great pride in: one is being a member of an advance team in a foreign country and standing at the terminal awaiting the arrival of Air Force One. "When that plane comes into view, with the American flag on the tail and 'United States of America' painted across the side, it does something to you. Even every anti-American would have to feel good about them."

By Richard Rico,  
Editor-Publisher

The Reporter, Nov. 10, 1976

## 'Campus radical' uncovered as cop

The story of a Berkeley police officer masquerading as a UC campus radical, his unmasking by a member of a dissident group and subsequent bombings of Berkeley police cars as possible reprisals, all have Vacaville connections.

For four months Roland Soliz, 22-year-old rookie cop, had played the role of a malcontent radical, joining with such groups as the Students for a Democratic Society, the Young Socialists Alliance, the Radical Student Union, with one purpose — to gather inside information on the plans and plotting of these groups for Berkeley Police. So when another student recognized Soliz in a recent photograph taken of the Berkeley Police graduating class, he blew the whistle. And Soliz's cover was blown.

For the daily press that was about it. But for us, there's more, because Undercover Agent Roland Soliz is the same Roland Soliz that attended Vacaville schools and graduated from Vaca High in 1965. His parents, brothers and sisters still reside on Monte Vista Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Soliz haven't seen their son for a while, but they had known he became a policeman.

"Of course I was surprised when I read about Roland in the papers," Mrs. Soliz told the Reporter. She said none of her family was aware of her son's undercover role at UC Berkeley and, in fact, declined to say much more about the incident. She added that Roland became a police officer about a year ago, that he is married, but declined to say where he is now living.

Soliz had no special training for his role as a masquerading radical, Berkeley Police Lt. Henry Sanders told the Reporter Thursday. "But," he said, "he looked like he could pass for one of the students and, in fact, was very, very effective" in his job. In order to look the part Soliz grew long hair, sideburns, a moustache and a goatee. For the four months he was taken into the confidence of the radical students until last week when Craig Pyes, a garbage collector who has worked with the Berkeley Tenants Union, discovered his true identity while thumbing through the Berkeley newspaper. ...

A tight lid of security was also placed on Soliz as his superiors did not permit him to talk to newsmen.

Berkeley police admitted late last week that they had planted Soliz on campus with the intent of having him join with the radical groups. He changed his name to Roland Guzman.

Confirmation of his undercover role came after a story appeared in the UC campus newspaper, the Daily Californian, with Soliz's picture and a caption: "Our spy at UC."

Three days after Soliz' identity was uncovered, three Berkeley Police cars were tripped by explosions as they sat in the department parking lot. Two reserve officers were injured. Lt. Sanders said he has no proof as yet, but the bombings might have been connected with the department's disclosure that Soliz had been working as an undercover agent.

The Reporter  
Feb. 16, 1976



## Vaca's Mr. Mayor

Bill Carroll was appointed mayor by the City Council from 1972 to 1977 and elected mayor from 1978 until 1990 when he was elected to the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Carroll (left) is shown in his first stint as Vacaville mayor signing a proclamation for "Vacaville Venture Week," with Ellen Vaughn (center) and Garland Dunham looking on. And Carroll today (below).

Vacaville  
Heritage Council



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## Burning limits begin

Turn today, or forever hold your leaves and trash. Or rather, hold your leaves and trash for the trash pickup day. Because starting tomorrow — Friday, Oct. 1 — there is no outdoor burning of any sort allowed in the City of Vacaville.

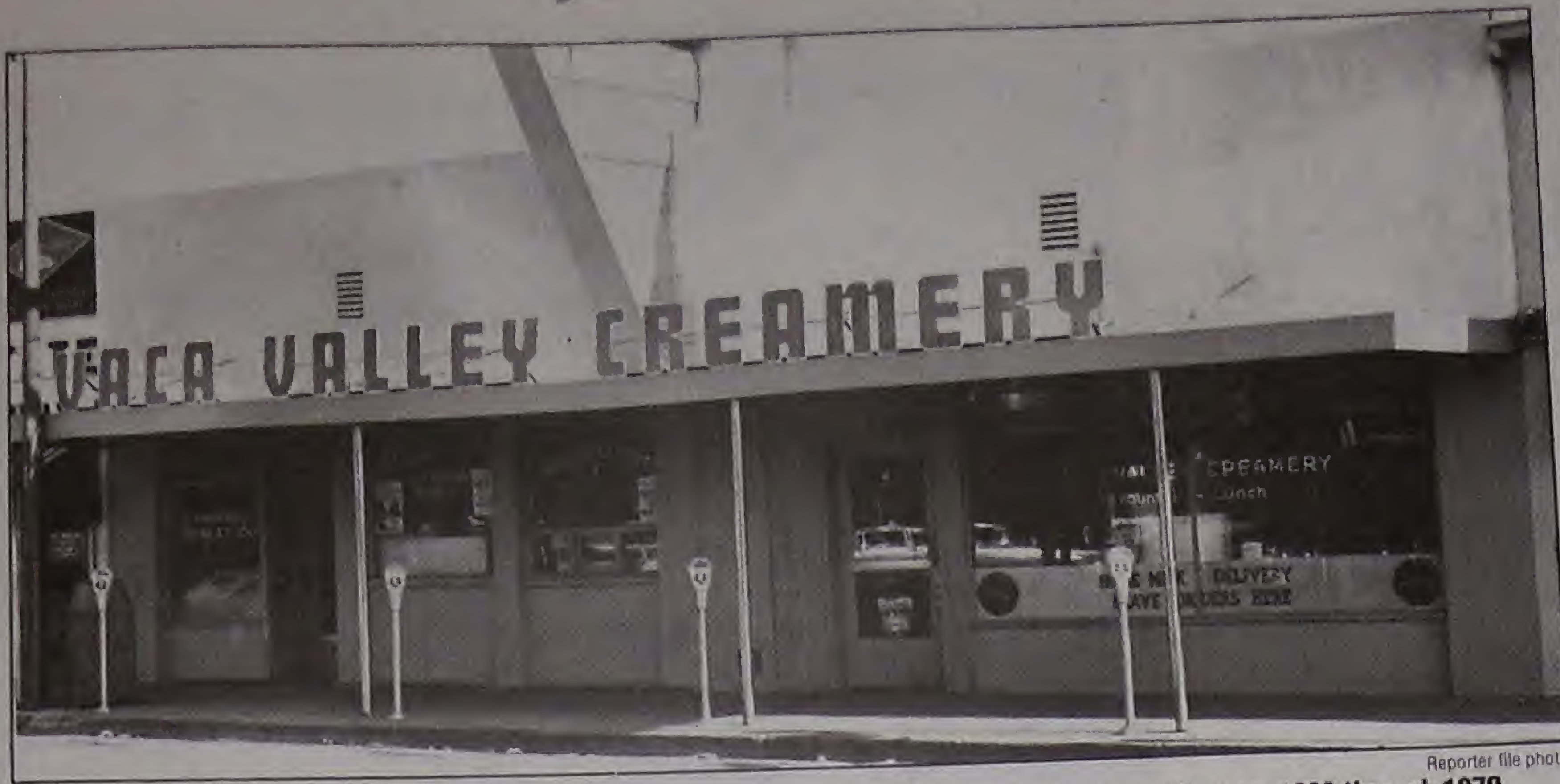
Tomorrow is the date the new rules and regulations of the Yolo-Upper Solano Air Pollution Control District go into effect in this area. The only kind of burning permitted from now on is agricultural burning — and even then only when a day is declared a "burn day."

There is one exception to the new fire rules — people who live outside the city and are not served by the trash pickup service can continue to "backyard-burn" trash through July 1, 1972. After that date, rural people will have to make other arrangements for getting rid of their trash.

Fire Chief Warren Hughes suggests that people living in the rural areas get together to form special districts to pay for trash pickup, in anticipation of next year's deadline...

The new district was formed because the Solano County Board of Supervisors felt "upcounty" was more suited to Bay Area conditions. The state has said that all areas, eventually, must belong to some air pollution control district.

The Reporter  
Sept. 30, 1971



The Vaca Valley Creamery, shown in this 1960s photo, was in operation on Main Street in Vacaville from 1933 through 1970.

## Creamery closing after 37 years

A name synonymous with Vacaville — the Vaca Valley Creamery — is passing out of the picture after having been in use for the past 37 years.

Milk which has been processed at the Main Street plant of the creamery is now being transported to the Crystal Creamery in Sacramento, where it is being packaged for local use. As soon as the present supply of Vaca Valley Creamery milk cartons is exhausted, the product will be labeled with the Crystal Creamery brand.

Back in 1930, two young men, Rudy Werner, fresh from the University of California at Davis, and Walter Brehme, were employed by the Vaca Rancho Dairy at Elmira. They later took over the operation of the dairy, and introduced the first Grade A pasteurized milk here in 1932.

In 1933, Brehme and Werner took over a vacant Main Street building and started the Vaca Valley Creamery, and in May of

that year bottled the first milk for local consumption. In 1933 they opened the front section of the plant into a fountain, which through the years became prominent for its dairy products.

The local plant and its capacity was constantly expanded and at one time products processed and manufactured here, which included ice cream, butter, cottage cheese, etc., were distributed to Vacaville, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Davis, Winters, and Travis AFB. Fourteen trucks were needed to deliver the milk supply, and 32 persons were employed.

Werner recalls a milk price war in 1935 and 1936 when milk sold for 5 cents a quart and milk shakes were sold over the fountain counter for 5 cents.

John Grima, who had been an employee of the firm for many years, became a partner in the corporation which was later formed.

The Vacaville plant took care of the output of 14 local area producers at one time, and in 1944, when the Air Force commandeered the local milk supply, Brehme and Werner purchased a large dairy near Dixon as a source of supply. It was later sold to Eldon Moore.

In 1962 the local creamery was sold to Frank Steiner, who operated a large dairy near Vacaville, and was the main source of supply for the Vacaville plant. Brehme and Werner continued ownership of the building...

Throughout the years the quality of the Vaca Valley Creamery products is reflected by the 176 State Fair awards earned, including 120 gold medal awards.

From 1944 to 1950 the local creamery supplied all of the milk consumed at nearby Travis.

The Reporter  
Nov. 16, 1970

## Flames destroy Buck shed

A piece of Vaca Valley history went up in flames in a spectacular predawn fire on Bucktown Road north of Vacaville Wednesday.

A picturesque old packing shed, part of the late Congressman Frank Buck's estate, burned to the ground in a blaze that Fire Department officials believe was started by arsonists.

The shed was one of the earliest places for packing choice Vaca Valley fruit for hungry eastern markets. It was still in use as a packing shed for the Buck Ranch.

Vacaville Fire Chief Howard Wood estimated the monetary loss at \$18,000 for the 40 by 100 foot shed, which included \$6,000-\$7,000 worth of boxes.

"We still feel it was set. But there's no evidence; we'll just have to put it down as unknown origins," Wood said.

Eleven firefighters, including volunteers, were unable to stop the blaze, which was reported at 1:16 a.m. Wednesday. It was declared "under control" (meaning burned out) at 3:03 a.m., and the last firemen left at 5:27 a.m.

Louis Nishimoto, ranch operator, picked through the hot ashes yesterday afternoon.

"By the time I got here this morning, the whole building was a ball of fire," he said. The building had been reduced to powder, littered with twisted steel that was once fruit-packing apparatus...

The Reporter  
Dec. 21, 1972

## A PART OF HISTORY



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## "Remington - America's Oldest Gun Manufacturer"

**1970** - Remington constructed a new ammunition plant in Leno, Arkansas. The site was considered to be near the geographic center of the sporting ammunition market. A new facility to produce clay targets was completed at Athens, Georgia, beginning production in 1971. The assets and business of Brewer Engineering Corp., in which Remington held 58.4% interest, were acquired by Parke-Davis and Company in exchange for common stock.

**1971** - Remington contracted to purchase additional property and building in Ilion, New York from the Union division of Sperry-Rand. This property would later be developed to provide additional firearms manufacturing capacity. The company purchased \$96,000 shares of its common stock from the trustees of Columbia University for \$4 million cash. The Mexican government closed all the country's retail outlets for firearms and ammunition which forced Cartuchos de Portavos de Mexico SA to suspend most of its ammunition operations.

**1973** - Remington introduced the 3200 Over and Under shotgun. Remington made an unsuccessful effort to acquire AB Norma Projektilfabrik of Sweden, a producer of centerfire ammunition and components. Negotiations had been completed and a closing date set when plans were discontinued because of concerns by the nat-trust division of the Dept. Of Justice.

**1974** - Remington formed a German sales subsidiary, Remington Arms GmbH in Wurzburg. The subsidiary was liquidated in 1988.

**1975** - Construction of a new target plant in Findlay, Ohio began on company owned land adjacent to the existing 100 year-old facility. Construction was completed in 1976. Remington purchased 589,000 shares of its common stock from Fidelity Union Trust Co., the executor of the estate of Geraldine R. Dodge. DuPont's percentage of ownership of Remington increased approximately 70%.

**1978** - Cartuchos de Portavos de Mexico SA, in which Remington owned a 40% interest, changed its name to Industria Tachos SA.

**1979** - Remington acquired the Hazen, Arkansas plant from the Van Heusen Shirt Co. Some of the Powder Metal operations moved from the Ilion plant to Hazen.



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# Groups, efforts sprout up, keep Vacaville green

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

It was good to be green in the 70s. Starting with the first Earth Day in April 1970, Vacans found themselves becoming more aware of the environment in general. From the Cub Scouts to the Leisure Town Garden Club, people were placing an increased emphasis on finding ways to improve the environment.

In Vacaville, a group called Save Our Trees was founded in the early 70s with a single focus at first: to keep developers from uprooting old-growth trees. It counted numerous successes on that front, although its efforts were thwarted by Mother Nature herself in 1977, when, it was reported, many of the trees were dying because of drought-related problems.

Through the years, the group evolved into a political force known as Seek Advancement of Vacaville Environment, or SAVE. The City Council listened to SAVE's concerns and added a few of its own. By the mid-70s, the city had established a grading ordinance to preserve the roots of old trees.

Similar concerns for the environment were reflected statewide, and starting in the 70s, developers were required to provide reports telling how their projects would conserve energy and affect the surrounding area.

SAVE died out in 1979, and its last hurrah was a sycamore tree-planting ceremony.

Recycling was a new concept, but it caught on fast. A June 1970 article in The Reporter notified Vacans that a local group would soon collect "left-overs" for the effort. Even Leisure Town residents joined the cause. In the fall of 1970, they started the Leisure Town Nature Club, whose members would take part in battling the "pollution war."

Vacaville High School students opted out of their traditional homecoming bonfire in 1970 as a show of support for better air quality.

People were certainly getting the hang of it all by 1972, when a Reporter article illustrated all the work involved in a recycling effort. Rodney Montgomery, president of Vacaville High's Students Organization Against Pollution, or SOAP, was among many workers who volunteered to crush glass, bundle newspapers and crush cans.

Cub Scouts joined the movement by volunteering to help clean Putah Creek, during "Keep America Beautiful" month in May 1974. They and other groups, such as the Camp Fire Girls, also lent a hand at the recycling center in the city corporation yard on Elmira Road.

The effort paid off by the end of the decade. In July 1979, Vacans learned that the air quality here had earned high ratings.



Reporter file photo

## Mr. and Mrs. CPR

Phil and Eddith Moehr, in this photo from the 1980s, demonstrate cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR. The couple, beginning in the late 1970s, became synonymous

with CPR training in Vacaville. By the time they retired from teaching CPR in 1991 they had personally certified more than 10,000 CPR students. Mr. Moehr died in July 1998.

## Locals mourn after slayings of Moscone, Milk

As he went about his work Monday morning, trying to find something in the blueprints of two new elementary campuses, Vacaville school administrator Hal Bush found something he wished he hadn't.

Asst. Supt. Lyle Welch broke the bad news moments after getting out of his car Monday. Mayor George Moscone was just shot, probably dead.

A longtime friend of the Bush family, George Moscone was murdered in his mayor's office moments before San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk was gunned down and assassinated.

Today, Bush reflects on the basketball games with the mayor. And the time in 1972 when Moscone consented to come to Vacaville to address the graduation class of Willis Jepson Junior High School where Bush was principal.

In his address to the graduates, Moscone, then a candidate for California governor, told them "this generation is charged with solving the problems mankind faces now and will face in regards to the environment."

This week, as the environment in San Francisco attempts to come out of a second shock wave following the bizarre mass sui-

cides in Jonestown, Moscone was in the headlines for the last time.

"I knew him from San Francisco," Bush said yesterday. "We went to the same high school, St. Ignatius, but he was a couple of years ahead of me."

More importantly, Moscone was in the same law practice as Bush's brother, Bill. While Bill Bush still practices law in the Bay Area capital, Moscone left to become state senator and then mayor.

The Reporter  
Nov. 29, 1978

# Hot Tub Sale

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## 1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

## Curfew for teens enforced

Vacaville's 10 p.m. curfew law for juveniles is now being strictly enforced, police chief James Lehman announced today.

Explaining the new policy of enforcement, the chief issued the following statement: "Since school has let out, malicious mischief, littering, and damage to property has increased tremendously among the juveniles roaming the streets. An order was issued from my desk yesterday to strictly enforce the curfew law in this city.

"The 10 p.m. curfew will be enforced seven days a week. Anyone under 18 on the streets past this hour must have a good reason, such as going to and from the theater or social activities, or they will be arrested."

The curfew does not apply:

1. When a juvenile (anyone under 18) is accompanied by his or her parents, guardian, or other adult person having care and custody of him.
2. When a juvenile is carrying out an emergency errand directed by his parent, guardian, or other adult having custody of him.
3. When a juvenile is returning directly home from a meeting, entertainment, recreational activity, or dance.
4. When a juvenile is going to or returning from work.

Juveniles found in violation of the curfew ordinance will be guilty of a misdemeanor "and shall be dealt with in accordance with juvenile court law and procedure."

The Reporter  
July 9, 1970



Two boys play on the bust of President Kennedy in Andrews Park.

Vacaville Heritage Council

## Badly damaged bust removed

The badly vandalized bust of President John F. Kennedy in Andrews Park will be removed, City Manager Walter Graham said this week.

"It's a mockery of the President," Graham told The Reporter.

This statue has long been a target for vandals, City Public Works Director Dennis Wilson told the City Council in his weekly report. Vandalism during the last two months has made it irreparable, he added.

"I do not know that this has anything to do with recent publicity on the former president, but enough damage has been caused that I feel it should be removed," Wilson wrote. "I would not recommend replacing it."

The larger-than-life bust of the late President was created 12 years ago by Gus Bouquet, then an inmate at the California medical Facility. It was unveiled on Nov. 22, 1964, the first anniversary of Kennedy's assassination.

The Reporter, Feb. 18, 1976

## Scientist: Plate may be a forgery

A small slab of brass, an item of hot historical debate since 1936, has once again rocked the cradle of Drakeophilia.

The opinion of Metallurgist Cyril Smith of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology earlier this week that the famous "Drake Plate of Brass" may be a forgery was a shot heard around the world. But nowhere was it heard any louder than in Vacaville.

One of the world's most stalwart proponents of the theory that the plate of brass, found in Marin County more than 41 years ago, is a direct link to Sir Francis Drake's discovery of San Francisco Bay in 1579, is Robert Power of Vacaville.

For the past 25 years his research into the belief that the explorer sailed inside the bay instead of the more widely-held theory that he anchored on the

coast in Drake's Estero, has gained him audiences before some of the most noted historians in the world.

But Power was not available for comment on the latest finding because — ironically — he and his family are now in England where his exhibit on Drake's exploits is an integral part of two major British commemorations: the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Celebration, and the Quadricentennial Celebration of Sir Francis Drake's circumnavigation of the globe.

While the report on the plate of brass ... might be considered a setback for Power and his theory, elsewhere in Vacaville the news is being received much more favorably.

By Richard Rico,  
Editor-Publisher  
The Reporter, July 31, 1977

## Sheppard family hires local

A Vacaville lawyer is representing the family of the late Dr. Sam Sheppard — the central figure in a grisly 1950s murder trial — in a \$10 million suit against the makers of a television movie shown last November.

NBC, Metromedia Corp. of America and Universal Studios are named as defendants in the invasion of privacy suit for their roles in making the TV film, "Sam Sheppard, Guilty or Innocent — You Be the Judge."

Vacaville attorney David Lucchesi filed the suit on behalf of Dr. Sheppard's son, Sam R. Sheppard; his brothers, Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard and Dr.

Richard N. Sheppard; and their wives.

Dr. Sheppard was found innocent of the 1954 bludgeoning murder of his wife in a second trial in 1966.

"This was not a newsworthy event at the time of this film, and these are merchandisers, not news people, Lucchesi said."

Lucchesi's suit claims the film was inaccurate, and the producers made no effort to contact the survivors of Dr. Sheppard to determine the accuracy or gain their permission for fictionalizing the events, he said.

Nov. 24, 1976,  
The Reporter

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## Extra patients but no hospital to treat them

Area improves medical care

By Victor Balta  
and Karen Nolan  
Staff writers

**T**he thousands of newcomers who streamed into Vacaville in the 1970s quickly discovered that, except in an emergency, medical care was not readily available.

Not that the community wasn't trying to fix the problem.

The decade had scarcely dawned when a group of investors proposed buying property in Cherry Glen and building "Miracle Valley Hospital" to serve both Vacaville and Fairfield. The effort to return a hospital to Vacaville — the tiny Elizabeth Street facility was closed two decades earlier — was the best to date, but a lack of support from the medical community proved insurmountable by March 1970.

It all had to do with "politics" and "jealousy" that kept physicians in the two communities apart, according to a pair of December 1970 Reporter articles examining why Vacaville could not seem to attract or keep physicians.

Most young doctors wanted to be associated with a well-equipped hospital, and Vacaville just didn't have one, explained The Reporter. In addition, doctors who opened practices here soon found themselves worn out tending to so many patients.

The situation became so dire that in December 1971, the Air Force agreed that off-duty military doctors could moonlight in Vacaville to ease the shortage. Still, by middecade there were only five doctors to serve 28,000 residents. The U.S. Public Health Services paid for two doctors to work in the Project Clinic, later renamed Vacaville Community Clinic, which had opened on Dobbins Street in September 1973. The clinic was

one of the few places that accepted MediCal payments.

By the mid-70s, Vacaville and Fairfield doctors began to put aside their differences and worked together to promote a \$6 million expansion of Intercommunity Hospital (now NorthBay Medical Center), whose regional plans included a hospital to be built eventually in Vacaville.

The effort apparently paid off. By the end of the decade, the federal government was looking at a report that claimed the physician-to-population ratio was now 1 per 2,500 — well below the 1-to-3,500 ratio required to continue providing doctors. The figures, however, were disputed by the Community Clinic, which did not want to lose its physicians.

On one medical front, Vacaville was ahead of the times: The Fire Department operated a paramedic program, spearheaded by then-Chief Howard Wood.

In October 1971, the Fire Department took over the ambulance service that had been operated by the Police Department. With its first and only vehicle — a 1971 Chevrolet van customized to serve as a mobile emergency room — the Fire Department began providing emergency medical service.

In November 1976, Vacaville residents voted to tax themselves to provide a full paramedic program, and the following spring four firefighters were sent to Stanford University to be trained. By September 1977, the program was in full swing.

In conjunction with the paramedic program, the city began offering cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes to the public in February 1977. Headed by Phil and Eddith Moehr, the community CPR program had certified or recertified more than 737 people by December 1978 and was credited with saving at least two lives.

## Moving experience for hospital patient

**W**e've all heard of U-Hauls, but this is ridiculous.

It may not go down in medical history, but it sure won't be forgotten by the medical staffs of two hospitals, nor by the Chandler Furniture Co. — movers of washers, dryers and hospital patients — bed and all.

It was bad enough when Joe Azevedo Jr. of Dixon shattered his leg last week in a Dixon area motorcycle accident, but to him, it was further shattering when he was taken to a Fairfield hospital instead of to Woodland where he told the ambulance attendant he wanted to go in the first place.

The 31-year-old resident was treated for shock and his battered leg was put in traction, heavy with cast. Joe Jr. wasn't very happy, though. He wanted to be treated by his own physician in Woodland. He wanted to be moved. Now.

No way, the Fairfield doctor said. Not in his condition. Then the doctor added, half-seriously perhaps: "The only way you're getting out of here is bed and all."

So Joe arranged for just that. He picked up a bedside phone and called Kim Chandler at the Lloyd Chandler Furniture Co. in Vacaville and asked if he would come to Fairfield with his moving van and — believe it or not — wheel him bed and all into

the back for transport to Woodland.

Taken aback only for a short while, young Chandler agreed to the idea.

So last Tuesday the Chandler furniture truck backed up to the Fairfield hospital, the hydraulic tailgate was lowered and in front of a hospital staff that stood by disbelieving, Joe Azevedo Jr. was wheeled aboard, bed, cast in traction and all.

"The trip to Woodland was the slowest ever — going about 35 miles an hour and trying to miss all the chuck holes," Chandler said later. With an ambulance running ahead with lights flashing and an attendant in the truck, the trip was made.

In Woodland the staff was alerted and doctors formed a welcoming committee for the furniture truck. The plan at first was to transfer Azevedo into a Woodland hospital bed and return the original to Fairfield. But doctors decided to keep him in the same bed rather than risk further injury to his shattered leg. So he's still there, in the same bed, undergoing further treatment.

The doctors in Woodland uttered the same response as their cohorts in Fairfield: "I don't believe it."

As for Kim Chandler, he's recovering nicely.

The Reporter  
June 11, 1973



In 1995, former fire chiefs Warren Hughes (left) and Howard "Woody" Wood Sr. joined in a private celebration of the Vacaville Fire Department's 100th birthday. Hughes, who headed the department from 1948 to 1971, was the department's first full-time paid chief. Wood succeeded him and was chief from 1971 to 1979.

Reporter file photos

## New fire chief named

### Wood replaces Hughes

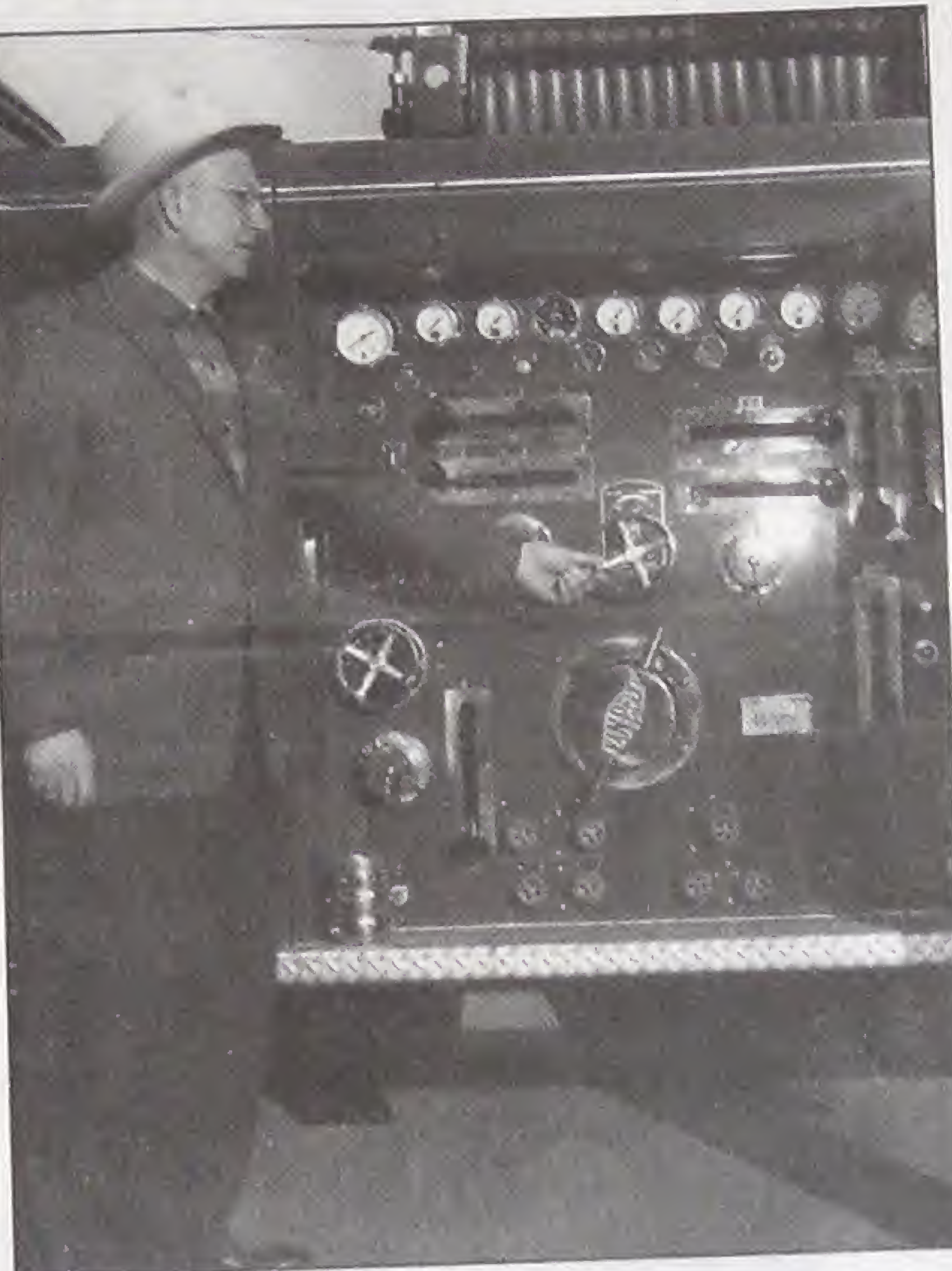
**H**oward "Woody" Wood, 52, a fire volunteer in Vacaville for over 20 years, yesterday was named to succeed retiring Fire Chief Warren Hughes effective Oct. 1.

Wood is presently a city employee in the position of Superintendent of Public Works. He has been the assistant chief in charge of the volunteer firemen since 1962.

Wood takes the helm at a time when the Vacaville Fire Department is expanding its services to include an emergency ambulance service — the department is expecting the shipment of a new ambulance on the very day Wood is scheduled to assume the position of fire chief.

And, as Vacaville City Manager Walter Graham pointed out as he made the announcement yesterday to supervisors within the department, the fire department is due to grow considerably within the next ten years with the growth of the city and the addition of ambulance service.

For Howard Wood, firefighting is a family affair. He himself became a volunteer fireman in April of 1951 and progressed up the ranks through engineer and captain before being named volunteer head in 1962. His wife, Mabel, is with the Vacaville Firebells; his daughter, Mardell Powell, is a past Firebelle president, and her husband, Bob, is a fulltime fireman with the Vacaville department. His son, Howard,



is a volunteer fireman and his wife, Judy, is a Firebelle; and his other son Robin has just applied to become a volunteer.

Wood, who lives on Gibson Canyon Road near Vine, also has a daughter Stormy Ann, a senior at Vaca High; a daughter, Gale, who's a freshman at Vaca High; and five grandchildren.

In 1959 he was employed by the City of Vacaville when the city bought the water system from PG&E, where Wood had worked as the water foreman. He subsequently became Public Works Superintendent under Dennis Wilson, Public Works Director.

Many times since he has been a volunteer fireman, Wood has filled in for Chief Hughes when

needed. One time when Hughes was away, Wood had four major structure fires within a 34-hour period and managed to save two of them that at first looked like total losses.

He was also head of the volunteers when the disastrous Black Thursday fire broke out several years back.

When Wood first joined the department, everyone else there was a volunteer. "When the warning was sounded, all of us would run and grab the truck, and head for the fire," Wood said. His volunteer responsibilities grew steadily until he headed a force of about 50 men by this year, meanwhile working full-time in public works.



Warren Hughes (left) in 1971, the year he retired after 23 years as fire chief. He died in 1996. His successor, Howard "Woody" Wood Sr. (above), was chief for eight years and died in 1997.

The volunteers will meet sometime later this year to choose a new head man, and the city will announce a new public works superintendent at a later date.

Wood has served as a Fiesta Days committeeman, and is a member of Moose Lodge No. 1967. As far as his community service activities go, though, he notes "volunteer fire work has been my life. Being on takes a lot more than most people realize."

"Warren (Hughes) has actually been training me and guiding me all these years as his successor, without me knowing," Wood said. "He knew someday he'd have to retire. Warren's been like a father — we always got along, and whenever something came up he'd call me in and we'd sit down and go over the whole thing — talking over strategy."

"I won't be able to fill his shoes, but I'll try."

The Reporter  
Sept. 16, 1971

## Battalion chief will succeed Wood

New leader has 14 years of experience

**T**he city of Vacaville has hired a new fire chief, Dale Geldert of Inglewood, who in his short career has risen from a fireman-paramedic to a battalion chief, taught at the fire academy, been assistant fire marshal and headed code enforcement.

The 35-year-old Oregon native will begin his new job at the two-station Fire Department, three days after Fire Chief Howard Wood retires following 27 years in the fire service and eight years as fire chief.

Geldert was one of three top candidates being considered in the past two weeks. The other two were from the cities of Richmond and Campbell. The city had 52 applicants vying for the \$2,400-a-month position.

Geldert's entire fire fighting experience has been in the Southern California city of Inglewood (population 91,000) except for one year during his

stint in the Navy when he was a crash rescue firefighter. He holds an associate of arts degree in fire science and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Redlands in public management.

Starting nearly 14 years ago with the Inglewood City Fire Department, Geldert was a beginning firefighter I for one year, and then quickly advanced through the ranks. He was promoted to fireman II and then volunteered to become a paramedic in 1970.

Following his paramedic service the new chief worked his way up from a fireman to a fire engineer position he held for three years. He served as an arson investigator, fire prevention educator, and worked in the city to enforce the fire code. He was also an assistant to the fire marshal for three years.

The Reporter  
March 9, 1979



1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

## Public-spirited Leila McKevitt succumbs at 89

Known as city's 'First Lady'

Leila McKevitt, 89, a prominent name in Vacaville's roster of public spirited residents for more than half a century, died at the Winsor House Convalescent Hospital on Saturday after a lengthy illness.

A native of Sacramento, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lindley, wholesale grocers, Mrs. McKevitt married Frank McKevitt, Jr., at her parent's home on Dec. 2, 1911. Following a short honeymoon the couple came to Vacaville to reside at 230 Buck Ave. That was 65 years ago.

The late Frank McKevitt, Jr., was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank McKevitt, pioneer Vacaville area fruit growers. He had become affiliated with Eban Pinkham, also of Vacaville, in the fruit shipping firm of Pinkham & McKevitt, which was to operate here for nearly 40 years.

Leila Lindley attended the University of California at Berkeley for about one and one-half years, but her urge to travel took her away from her studies and she toured Europe, Egypt and other points, before her marriage. She sailed on such well-known steamships as the George Washington and the Lusitania; and she rode camel-back to the Pyramids.

Her grandfather was the first territorial judge of Nevada, having received his appointment by President Abraham Lincoln. A great uncle was chief justice of the California Supreme Court, and another great uncle was president of Centre College at Danville, Ky.

As a young bride Mrs. McKevitt

assisted her husband in the fruit shipping business, having as one of her jobs the routing of loaded fruit cars to cities across the United States. When her husband's firm expanded into the grape shipping business in the San Joaquin Valley, she followed to assist.

Mrs. McKevitt's most cherished possession was her ability to make friends, which earned her the title of "Vacaville's First Lady." For 52 years she was active in Red Cross work, and personally handled many of the humanitarian tasks delegated to the Vacaville chapter. She was a lodge and club member, was active in church work, and was named an international honorary member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

During the World War II rationing period, she directed much effort in allocating scarce materials to those here in need.

Four years to the month after coming here as a bride to reside in one of the stately Buck Avenue homes, a fire of undetermined origin completed devastated the residence of the recently married couple. Seeing the inability of the Vacaville Fire Department in coping with a fire of this magnitude only with a hose cart and hydrant pressure the town council took immediate action to purchase Vacaville's first mechanized fire engine early in 1916.

The present McKevitt home on Buck Ave. was erected on the site of the one destroyed by fire.

By John Rice, The Reporter  
May 26, 1976



McKevitt



Helen Harbison Power is shown in Harbison House at the Nut Tree in this 1970s photo.

## Helen Harbison Power, 83, Nut Tree co-founder, dies

Services were held in the gardens of her Nut Tree home Monday for Helen Harbison Power, co-founder of the world-famous freeway restaurant complex, who died Sunday.

Mrs. Power died at the age of 83 following a week of hospitalization for a heart attack at the University of California, San Francisco, Hospital.

A native of Vacaville, Mrs. Power with her late husband, Edwin I. (Bunny) Power, established a roadside fruit stand on the old Lincoln Highway on July 3, 1921, which developed into one of California's and America's most popular and distinguished restaurants. In 1921 Mrs. Power, with her husband's help, set up sales of baskets of fresh figs to passersby; overhead an American flag fluttered and nearby was a copy of the Saturday Evening Post she read to wile away the time between customers.

Later she became the innovator of the fresh fruit salads that became a symbol of California's bountiful cuisine. This won wide recognition, and this year Institution Magazine,

Chicago and Gourmet Magazine found Nut Tree to be an outstanding Bicentennial restaurant because of its extensive use of regional fruit.

Helen Power was a founding contributor to the Bishop Pine Preserve of the Nature Conservancy at Inverness. The Founder of Allison Knolls Preserve of the Nature Conservancy at Vacaville, she, through the Sempirvirens fund and Save the Redwood League, established a redwood grove near Big Basin, Santa Cruz County.

She was the daughter of Josiah Allison who was the pioneer settler of the lands located in the vicinity of Nut Tree and had lived virtually all her life on the Nut Tree ranch. In recent years she spearheaded the complete restoration and refurbishing of the stately Harbison House located on the grounds.

Helen Power is survived by her sister, Harriet Harbison Masson, and three children: Edwin I. Power, Jr., Robert H. Power and Mary Helen Fairchild, and 17 grandchildren.

The Reporter, June 23, 1976

## City loses dedicated vice mayor

The halls and offices of Vacaville's City Hall were silent this morning, on a day when they would otherwise have been bustling with Monday morning activity. It was a city day of mourning for Vice Mayor Bert Christopher, who died in a Woodland hospital early Friday of a heart and respiratory ailment at the age of 74.

"The citizens of Vacaville have lost a friend and dedicated supporter," said Mayor William Carroll, in announcing the closing of City Hall in Christopher's memory. "He never turned down any opportunity to serve this community in whatever capacity he could."

Said City Manager Walter Graham, "Bert was always sympathetic to anyone who came to him — and he always had a kind word for everyone. He took the time to do such things as walk through the business area of Vacaville,

talking to the individual businessman, finding out what their feelings were about city issues. Vacaville has lost a grand person."

Christopher's career was one marked throughout by a dedication to public service. He was born on Dec. 29, 1897, in Wichita, Kan., and for 27 years he worked for the B.F. Goodrich Rubber Co., before he retired as a zone manager for that firm.

He had resided in California for the last 14 years, and in Vacaville-Leisure Town area for the past nine.

He first took public office in Vacaville in 1965, when he was named to the City Council to replace the then-mayor Noland Bagley. Christopher was elected to the council in 1966 and again in 1970, and on both those occasions, was the top vote-getter.

The Reporter, July 3, 1972

## Dairy owner Burt Wykoff dies at 90

Burt L. Wykoff, 90, a lifelong resident of Vacaville, died Saturday at Intercommunity Hospital, Fairfield. He had been hospitalized for three weeks.

Burt Wykoff was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Larrison Wykoff. The senior Wykoff came to Vaca Valley by wagon train in 1852. He was a native of New Jersey.

Jonathan Wykoff resided in the family home at 74 Eldredge St. and it was there that Burt Wykoff was born and resided for the past 90 years.

On Dec. 21, 1910, Burt Wykoff married Miss Sadie Chambers, also of Vacaville.

Mr. Wykoff attended the local schools, and remained in the Vacaville area following graduation. He was a fruit and cattle rancher, and for many years was a dried fruit buyer for

Rosenberg Bros. and the Gugenheim Company.

Mr. Wykoff raised milk cows on his ranch, which in earlier days was outside the Vacaville city limits. He milked several cows and distributed the fresh milk to customers in the then small community. In later years he moved his Wykoff Dairy to a site just off Alamo Street, a business he continued for nearly 40 years before retiring in 1962. The buildings still stand. He became an extensive land owner in the Vacaville area. Some of his lands are included in the proposed Lagoon Valley Park.

In 1961, Mr. Wykoff was honored by being named parade marshal for the annual Fiesta Days' celebration.

The Reporter, Jan. 5, 1977

## Company founder perishes

Hume, partner  
started locally

William Mansur Hume, 76, one of the founders of Basic Vegetable Products Co., died at his San Francisco home Saturday after having suffered a heart attack.

Mr. Hume had retired from active participation in the firm which had its start in Vacaville and grew to the largest of its kind in the world.

William Hume and Joe Pardick experimented with the dehydrating of onions in a small plant at Corpus Christie, Texas, in 1932. Although there was a vast supply of the fresh product available, it was difficult to attain the finish quality desired because atmospheric conditions were not favorable.

Continuing experiments were moved to the Hume garage in Pasadena where improved quality of dried onions and garlic was perfected. The two men, along with Jacquelin Hume, set out in search for a location where climatic conditions would be favorable for the drying of onions and garlic.

In 1933, the company leased the prune dehydrators which had been installed by Ed Uhl on his ranch near Vacaville in 1926. The dehydrators were available throughout the year, with the exception of the short period reserved for the drying of prunes. For the next six years Basic operated on a limited scale, with a small crew of men and women.

In 1939, Basic acquired the abandoned Vacaville Fruit Growers Association packing plant and properties on Davis Street, and moved the dehydrating enterprise to that location.

During the World War II years, the entire output of the Basic plant was diverted to the Armed Forces, and containers of onion and garlic could be found in the war zones in many parts of the world. In 1944 the company was honored with the coveted Army-Navy "E" Award for its efforts in helping to supply food products to the Armed Forces. William Hume accepted the plaque presented to Basic by high government officials.

Basic maintains headquarters in the Bank of America building in San Francisco, and also has a large dehydrating plant in King City.

Mr. Hume was a native of Indiana and was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Hume. He attended Harvard Business School prior to assisting in the founding of Basic. He was a trustee of the Ralph K. Davies Medical Center and a member of the Pacific Union Club.

The Reporter  
Dec. 22, 1976

## Summer of tragedy

The summer of 1979 in upper Solano County may go down in history as "The Tragic Summer for Youth."

Death came to the door of many families this summer. And Vacaville was hit extremely hard.

Newspaper clippings showed a summer of tragedy, a summer of death for 18 young people whose lives ended too soon.

From June 18 to Aug. 21, there were auto crashes, motorcycle mishaps, suicides, murders and drownings.

Three deaths came in June, four in July and 10 in August. It was an unprecedented summer for catastrophe involving young people.

Drownings claimed the lives of four very young swimmers in Rio Vista and the Delta region, motorcycle accidents claimed four others, and four persons took their own lives.

Car accidents killed three persons, two young women were murdered, and a ski boat accident claimed the life of a young boy.

The Reporter  
Aug. 22, 1979

## Baja plane crash kills 4 Vaca men

The discovery of the scattered wreckage of a light airplane in Baja California Friday afternoon brought a tragic end to the search for four well-known Vacaville residents reported missing since Sunday on a pleasure flight from Vacaville to Bahia de los Angeles — Bay of the Angels.

Ironically, the burned-out plane was found less than four miles from its destination, on the side of a low, gradual slope that runs from the rugged mountains of the Baja peninsula to the tranquil waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

All the occupants were apparently killed on impact.

On board were:

James "Bud" Caughy, 58, a native of Vacaville, owner of Caughy Construction Co. and a prominent figure in Vacaville and Solano County civic affairs. He resided on Buck Avenue with his wife, Florence, and their two children.

Russell Mackey, 58, a veteran pilot with nearly 20,000 military and civil air hours to his credit. For many years he has been the manager of the Nut Tree Airport. He resided at 511 Magnolia with his wife, Anita, and their son, who was also on board.

Stanley Mackey, the Mackeys' 24-year-old son.

Dr. Donald Christopher, 45, a Vacaville orthodontist. He resided at 360 Buck Ave. with his wife, Thurza.

In another ironic twist, the wreckage was discovered by Edwin Power, Nut Tree partner

and close friend and employer of Mackey for many years. Power said on his return to Vacaville Friday night that several planes had overflowed the site several times and in fact Friday afternoon all the search planes in the area of L.A. Bay decided to leave that area and search farther north.

The plane — a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza owned jointly by Caughy and Dr. Christopher — departed the Nut Tree Airport Sunday morning for a two-day fishing jaunt to L.A. Bay. The area was a favorite of Mackey, who had made the trip into the Baja resort many times. The plane, loaded with fuel, personal belongings and survival equipment, flew directly to the California border town of Calexico in the Imperial Valley. Mackey indicated they would be returning Tuesday night. Families of the men also expected them home Tuesday night.

When they failed to show Wednesday morning Power began checking airports along their route and chartered a plane out of Calexico to fly to L.A. Bay to see if the men were there with some sort of mechanical problem. The pilot reported back that the plane had never reached its destination.

That started the extensive search which began Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. and concluded tragically Friday afternoon.

The Reporter  
April 27, 1970



1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

# Area drug wars turn explosive

Gunshots, bombs target officers

By Brian Hamlin  
Reporter Features writer

Until the 1970s, Solano County's drug wars were rather one-sided, with local law enforcement agencies and the Solano County Drug Abuse Bureau (later Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement) regularly rounding up marijuana sellers and pill peddlers with little or no resistance.

The nature of the drugs, and the dealers, began to change during the 1970s, and county lawmen found themselves up against an increasingly violent element as newer substances began appearing on the Solano scene — methamphetamines, cocaine and angel dust (PCP).

The first Solano County law enforcement death directly linked to drug trafficking occurred Dec. 5, 1973, when state narcotics officer Steven L. Armenta was fatally shot during an undercover drug buy in Benicia.

Less than five years later, on Jan. 30, 1978, high-profile Solano County Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement agent William O. Zerby narrowly missed being killed when a bomb was detonated beside his car outside his Vacaville home.

Zerby, who had repeatedly struck at drug traffickers believed to be associated with the Hells Angels and their Vallejo affiliates, the Nomads, had been on his way to testify against a reputed drug courier in Northern Solano Municipal Court when the bomb rocked his neighborhood.

Zerby suffered multiple burns and hearing loss as a result of the blast, which neighbors described as "a terrific explosion."

"It shook the building so much that I thought it was coming down," neighboring El Camino Drive resident Winnie Howell told The Reporter in a Feb. 1, 1978, story about the bombing.

Al Diminico, a construction worker who was in the neighborhood, said, "You kind of wonder if there is somebody over there shooting or throwing hand grenades or something."

Following emergency treatment, Zerby was whisked away to an undisclosed location under heavy guard, eventually assuming a false identity while investigators searched for suspects in the attempted killing.

Within hours of the blast, a task force had assembled. Its agents included representatives



William Zerby  
...survived bombing

of the Vacaville Police Department, Solano County Sheriff's Office, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, District Attorney's Office, Vallejo Police Department, state Department of Justice, the FBI, and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Lawmen subsequently served search warrants at an isolated farm off Demming Way in Vallejo that had been identified as a Hells Angels hangout. Three people were arrested, but none was directly linked to the Zerby bombing at that time.

Secret county grand jury indictments, however, were issued six weeks later, and a dozen Hells Angels and their affiliates were arrested throughout the Bay Area on a variety of charges, including drug trafficking and criminal conspiracy to commit murder in the Zerby attack.

Although court proceedings continued for more than two years and eventually grew into a federal RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) case, none of the Hells Angels ever was convicted for the bombing attack.

Zerby went on to become a successful private investigator in Vacaville.

The story of the bombing was recounted in the 1982 made-for-TV movie "Hear No Evil," in which Gil Gerard played the narcotics investigator and an outlaw motorcycle gang known as the "Bay Riders" portrayed the Hells Angels.

Zerby, who had a brief cameo appearance in the film, was gamely on the set when his celluloid counterpart's car was blown up on the streets of San Francisco.

## Officer's death linked to Jeep

Vallejo police think that a pickup stolen at gunpoint from a Vacaville fruit stand owner last Wednesday may somehow be linked to the brutal slaying of two California Highway Patrolmen in Yolo County early Friday morning.

A special radio alert was broadcast by Vallejo police noon Saturday indicating that the brown 1979 Jeep pickup stolen from 26-year-old Larry Glashoff Wednesday evening was wanted in connection with the slaying of CHP officers Roy P. Blecher, 50, and William Freeman, 35.

The officers were found shot to death beside their patrol car

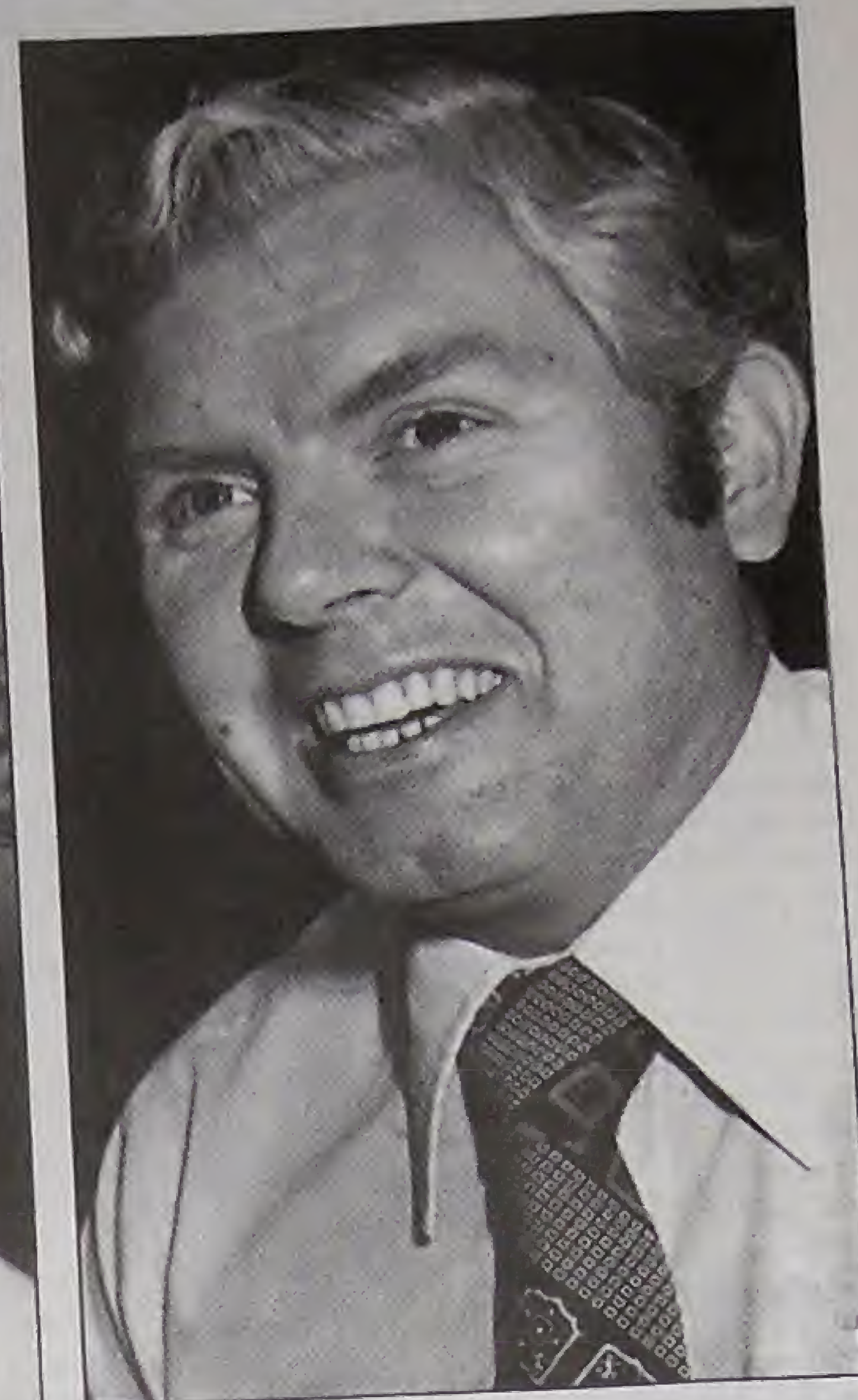
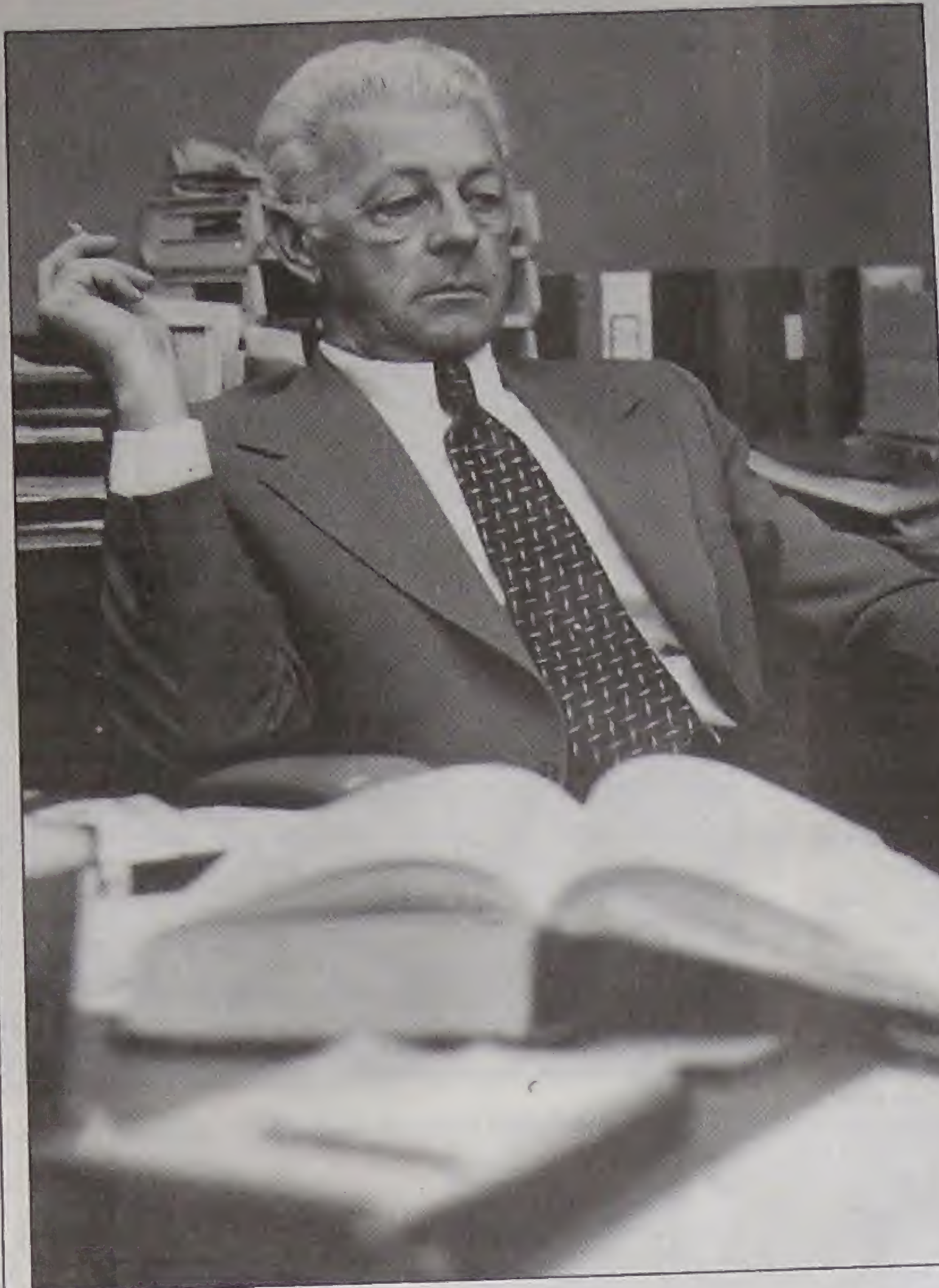
on Interstate 80 just west of the Harbor Boulevard interchange outside Sacramento about 3:45 a.m. Friday.

A temporary driver's license found near the officers' bodies later was traced to the Vallejo office of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Saturday, a Vallejo police spokesman told The Reporter that investigators there were "checking everything" that might be connected with the slaying, and Glashoff's stolen jeep was definitely part of the investigation.

The Reporter  
Dec. 24, 1978

# BEHIND THE BADGES



James Lehman (left) said he immediately liked police work once someone talked him into joining the field. He headed the Vacaville Police Department for 14 years before retiring in 1977. Gary Tatum (above) had 19 years of police experience when he succeeded Lehman.

Reporter file photos

## Chief Lehman had 'look of an eagle'

When Vacaville's newly hired city manager, Walter Graham, attended his first City Council meeting back in July of 1964, he noticed a "lean, gray-haired man with the look of an eagle" walk into the room.

"That must be the police chief," Graham thought to himself. "He looks like a police chief should look."

It was James Cameron Lehman.

Come May 1, however, Vacaville's police chief will have a new look. The city will have a new police chief.

Lehman, 55, is retiring April 30, after 14 years in Vacaville's top law enforcement post and 24 years behind the badge.

"We're sorry to see Jim

Lehman retire," Graham told The Reporter. "He is a very good department head and I have great respect for him. I'll miss him."

Graham added that he has always found Chief Lehman to be sensitive to the needs of the City Council and community. "He's always been ready to carry out the will of the City Council. His effectiveness has not diminished over the 13 years I've known him."

The man with the look of an eagle has been behind a badge since 1943, when he was hired — at the age of 21 — as a deputy sheriff for the Solano County Sheriff's Office.

Born March 2, 1922, in San Francisco, Lehman was raised by his maternal grandmother,

the late Alveda Lehman. He attended schools in the city, graduating from Balboa High School in 1939.

His first job was at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard; then he worked as a bus driver for Pacific Greyhound Bus Lines out of Vallejo before entering the law enforcement field.

Lehman's stepfather was a San Francisco police officer, but it was a deputy sheriff in the Solano County Sheriff's Office who convinced him to enter law enforcement.

"I immediately liked it," Lehman related. "It definitely gave me a feeling of satisfaction that I was doing something to help people. It was a gratifying job."

Lehman has been in law

enforcement ever since, except for a two-year stint in the U.S. Navy (from June 1944 until March 1946) and for two brief periods in the automobile business.

Lehman was hired as a Vacaville police officer in 1956, and stayed with the police department until 1958, when he accepted a job as service manager for John Moriel, then a Buick dealer in Vacaville.

In 1960 Lehman accepted a job with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, where he worked until Aug. 26, 1963.

That's when he was named Vacaville's police chief.

By Kathy Keatley Garvey,  
Managing Editor  
The Reporter, March 20, 1977

## Tatum tops 250 applicants for chief job

Vacaville's police chief as of May 2 will be Gary Tatum, now a captain with the Palo Alto Police Department, City Manager Walter Graham announced Friday morning.

Tatum, 41, scored at the top of the finalists tested in a day-long series of interviews and exercises Monday, Graham said after making the appointment.

He and another out-of-town police captain, who placed second, were far ahead of all other applicants, the city manager told The Reporter.

The finalists were selected from among the 250 applicants from as far away as Greece, including several current police chiefs and college professors.

"I'm confident Gary Tatum will be a fine addition to our police department," Graham said.

The city manager said he was impressed by Tatum's progressive outlook, his work in Palo Alto, and his published writing in The

Police Chief magazine.

"I want to face the challenge of being a police chief in a community," he said.

He called Vacaville a growing, well-planned, friendly community.

Tatum was born in New York City and raised there and on Long Island. He served almost five years in the Navy as a radio operator, and left with the rank of petty officer first class.

He is a graduate of the College of Notre Dame with a BA degree in history and the FBI National Academy, with graduate work at the University of Virginia.

He started police work in 1958 as a patrolman in Palo Alto, then a small town with little crime and now a city of 53,000. He told The Reporter he vividly recalls the city's first bank robbery.

Tatum was promoted to sergeant in 1964, lieutenant in 1968 and captain in 1971. His duties have included directing day-to-day

patrols, a traffic squad, intelligence and narcotics units, field operations and investigations divisions, riot control, VIP protection and prostitution control squads.

His community activities include the Palo Alto Adolescent Services Corp., Pop Warner Football, the Palo Alto Host Lion Club, and the Episcopal Church.

The 6-foot-5, 215-pound police officer is married and has three children.

He said he has no immediate objectives in Vacaville except to get to know the police department and city.

City Manager Graham said he has given Tatum no special instructions.

"If he can continue the fine work of Chief James Lehman, the city will thank him for it," Graham told The Reporter.

Lehman will retire April 30 after 14 years as chief and 24 years as a policeman.

The Reporter  
April 10, 1977

1970 We wish you a Merry Christmas!

From all of us at Bowman's Stationers:  
David Bowman,  
John Bowman, Margo Bowman,  
Mary Ann Bowman and Florence  
Fresch.



Bowman's  
Stationers

322 Parker St. • Downtown Vacaville • 447-8430

**McCune**  
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MORTUARY • CREMATION • MONUMENTS  
PRE-ARRANGEMENT PLANNING • FD-0388

212 Main Street • Vacaville 448-6546 • Fax: 448-6559  
www.mccunechapel.com

In addition to being an embalmer, a funeral director, and operating the ambulance service, Del McCune was coroner and then deputy coroner of Solano County for many years. In 1972 Del purchased Milton Carpenter Funeral Home in Dixon from Milton and Virginia Carpenter.

In 1973 Elizabeth McCune, Del's wife of 36 years, passed away. Today Milton Carpenter Funeral Home, along with McCune Garden Chapel continue to be independently operated solely by the McCune family.



1970-1979

THE PAST CENTURY

# Opening a new CHAPTER



The library moved to its new home on Merchant Street in 1970.

## Carnegie building fate murky

By Barbara Smith  
Reporter correspondent

Vacaville's new public library, constructed adjacent to City Hall on Merchant Street, opened in October 1970, and boasted such modern amenities as plush carpeting, bright lighting, walnut-grain book racks and a section for children.

Funded by a \$335,000 voter-approved bond and a \$101,200 federal grant, the 9,000-square-foot structure was welcomed and needed. Yet most of the attention during its construction and opening was centered on the fate of the old Carnegie Library at Main and Parker streets.

Vacaville was divided on the destiny of the concrete and steel building made possible in 1915 through a \$10,000 grant from steel magnate Andrew Carnegie.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dietz, longtime residents and collectors of historical items, fought to prevent the Vacaville Unified School District Library Board from placing the old Carnegie building on the auction block.

The Dietzes met with the board, the City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and various clubs and organizations to garner support for turning the building into a museum. They wrote letters, circulated petitions and even threatened to obtain an injunction.

The library board maintained the building had to be sold to pay for furnishings for the new library. The City Council maintained Vacaville already had two museums — the Pena Adobe historical site and the old City Hall restoration project.

Arthur Dietz countered that Pena Adobe and the old City Hall were monuments, not museums.

"The idea of selling our heritage stinks to high heaven all over," Dietz said during one City Council meeting.

He told members of the library board to "satisfy your own conscience."

They did, and the Carnegie building was sold.

Tom and Toby Garcia purchased the building for \$35,100. They restored it and in May 1971 opened a "mini-Ghiradelli Square," complete with antique and gift shops, an outdoor cafe and eventually a popular, San Francisco-style restaurant known as "The Library." Various business have occupied the building since then and it is now headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the new public library was busy severing its ties with the Solano County library



Reporter file photos

The 9,000-square-foot building, shown in this 1970 photo, provided enough room for Vacaville Library's collection.

system because of squabbles over administration, circulation and book ownership.

Vacaville's library was on its own after December 1970. When money ran short in 1974, commissioners briefly considered re-establishing the county connection. Independence won out. The idea was tabled until 1978, when the library became a casualty of the Jarvis-Gann initiative — Proposition 13.

With its books in the red, and with no advance on property tax revenue expected, the library closed its doors.

Library commissioners realized the only way to reopen would be to merge with the Solano County system. That would qualify the local library for annual \$10,000 state grants, as well as a share of the county system's tax revenue. It wasn't much, but it was enough to reopen the library on a part-time basis in July 1978.



The library was officially dedicated in 1971 in conjunction with its one-year anniversary. Dr. Otis Brown, president of the library board, stands at the podium to address the crowd.

## Vandals slash and smash

Last Thursday vandals unleashed their severest attack on Vacaville property this year. ...

One of the most frequent scenes of malicious mischief has been Andrews Park. Sprinkler heads have been torn up (even after they were reinstalled in concrete), bottles thrown on the street, trees uprooted, and attempts made to burn the park lavatories.

According to police chief James Lehman, the vandalism may culminate in an officer being stationed in the park.

By far, windows have been the principal target of local vandals during the past six months. A quick check through police reports revealed that at least the following number of windows have been broken: 75 in public buildings (schools, churches, and city buildings), 50 windows in residences, 15 passenger windows in cars, 11 windshields, and 10 windows in businesses. ...

If windows are popular targets, they are by no means the only targets of vandals. Malicious mischief has taken countless forms: slashed tires on cars and bicycles, slashed convertible tops, smashed-in fences, dirt in gas tanks, car antennas ripped off.

Some of the incidents have been extremely wanton and bizarre, such as overturning gravestones at the Vacaville-Elmira cemetery, breaking the trophy case glass at Vacaville High School and destroying three irreplaceable trophies, shooting arrows through a trailer, and rolling a boulder off a hill into a resident's back yard. ...

"Our officers spend the overwhelming majority of their time answering complaints rather than on observation patrol," noted Chief Lehman. "Each has a vast area he must cover."

Lehman pointed out that most malicious mischief incidents occur between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. During that time Vacaville has three patrolmen on duty.

In an effort to curb vandalism, the department has begun strict enforcements of the city's 10 p.m. curfew law for juveniles. "The curfew is virtually the only means we have of controlling malicious mischief," explained Lehman. "At least if juveniles are off the streets we can be assured that vandalism is not happening after 10 p.m."

Although most malicious mischief cases go undetected, parents are liable for damages caused by their children if police can conclusively prove they were the responsible party.

What can be done to halt the rising tide of malicious mischief? Chief Lehman had this observation.

"The police department cannot put a stop to this alone. Without the assistance of the citizens it will be impossible. We ask all people in the city of Vacaville, particularly those living in new home construction areas, to assist us by keeping a watchful eye open for malicious mischief and damage."

The Reporter  
July 20, 1970

*Our music has been  
filling your Vacaville  
homes for decades.*

**Our History: 1970-1979**

**Our 70's Were Great!**

Our owner, Bill Carroll was elected to City Council in 1970 and was elected Mayor of Vacaville in 1972.

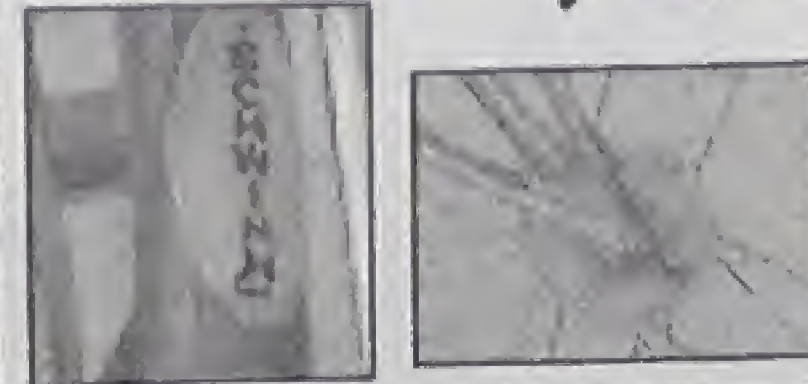
In 1970 Bill and Marge bought out their partner in Jay's Music and renamed the store Vacaville Music in honor of their Vacaville heritage.



**Vacaville Music**  
359 Merchant St., Vacaville  
707-448-3651

## Pedaling back the years

1971 Schwinn Orange Krate. The Orange Krate was the first bike featured in the 1967 Schwinn Catalog. However, by the time it went into general release it was joined by it's brothers the Apple Krate, Pea Picker, and Lemon Peeler, the brightly colored staples of the eventual six-bike line. The Krates featured a small front wheel, drum brake, rear slick, full suspension and a 5 speed "stik" shift. From 1972-1974, the final Krates also featured a disc brake. However, all this technology didn't come cheap. A 1970 5-speed Krate checked in at \$94.75.



**Ray's Cycle**

400 Main St., Downtown Vacaville, 448-1911  
1121 Texas St., Downtown Fairfield, 428-1911



## 1970-1974

M I L L E N N I U M N O T E B O O K

## BIRTHS

Meriah Carey, singer, 3/27/70  
 Andre Agassi, tennis player, 4/29/70  
 Naomi Campbell, model, 5/22/70  
 Kirsti Yamaguchi, figure skater, 7/12/71  
 Pete Sampras, tennis player, 8/12/71  
 Winona Ryder, actress, 10/29/71  
 David Duval, golfer, 11/9/71  
 Shaquille O'Neal, basketball player, 3/6/72  
 Mia Hamm, soccer player, 3/17/72  
 Monica Seles, tennis player, 12/2/73

## DEATHS

Mark Rothko, Abstract expressionist, 2/25/70, suicide, age 66  
 Gypsy Rose Lee, stripper, 4/26/70, cancer, age 56  
 Vince Lombardi, football coach, 9/3/70, cancer, age 57  
 Jimi Hendrix, rock guitarist, 9/18/70, drug overdose, age 27  
 Janis Joplin, rock singer, 10/4/70, drug overdose, age 27  
 Jim Morrison, rock singer, 7/3/71, drug overdose, age 27  
 J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, 5/2/72, high blood pressure, age 77  
 Roberto Clemente, baseball player, 12/31/72, plane crash, age 38  
 Betty Grable, 1940s pinup girl, 7/2/73, lung cancer, age 56  
 Pablo Casals, cellist, 10/22/73, age 96  
 Duke Ellington, musician, 5/24/74, cancer, age 75  
 "Mama Cass" Elliot, pop singer, 7/29/74, heart attack, age 32

## ISSUES



Future and former first ladies Rosalynn Carter and Betty Ford at an Equal Rights Amendment rally.

## Birth of women's lib

Women's liberation achieves full flower in 1972. The FBI swears in its first female agents, and America's first female rabbi is ordained. In July, Gloria Steinem launches Ms. magazine. Its 300,000 copies sell out in eight days. Congress passes Title IX, legislation prohibiting discrimination against females in federally funded education, including athletic programs. On March 22, the Equal Rights Amendment, prohibiting gender discrimination, passes Congress and is sent to the states for ratification. But by year's end, only 22 of the required 38 have given approval.

## THE TUBE

## TV grows up

When CBS introduces "All in the Family" in 1971, critics consider it both a perfect reflection of the times and brilliantly ahead of its time. Middle-aged Archie Bunker is close-minded and cigar-chomping, a working-class fella in Queens who isn't adapting to the fast-changing world. "All in the Family" shoots to the top of the Nielsen ratings because it deals with all the issues of the times: feminism, peace, race, religion and marriage.

## RELIGION

## A new Bible

With trumpet fanfares in London's Westminster Abbey, leaders of the Protestant Churches of the British Isles are presented a new translation of the Bible. The New English Bible is the culmination of 24 years of work by British scholars. The aim is to make the Bible more relevant to contemporary readers, but some critics complain that the new translation lacks the sonorous majesty of the King James version, published in 1611.

## FIRSTS

**New in 1972:**  
 ■ Home Box Office.  
 ■ Nike Inc., founded by Philip H. Knight and William Bowerman.  
 ■ Pong, the first commercially successful video game, from Atari.  
 ■ PASCAL, a computer language developed by Nicholas Wirth.

**New in 1974:**  
 ■ First black model appears on the cover of a major fashion magazine, Beverly Johnson on Vogue.  
 ■ People magazine.



## 1970

■ **Jan. 16:** Libyan Col. Moammar Gadhafi, 27, who led a coup Sept. 1, 1969, becomes premier of the North African nation.

■ **Jan. 21:** Boeing 747 jumbo jets go into trans-Atlantic service for Pan American World Airways.

■ **Feb. 18:** In the Chicago Seven trial, a jury acquits all seven defendants charged with conspiracy to incite a riot during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. Five defendants are convicted of seeking to incite a riot through individual acts.

■ **April 1:** President Richard Milhous Nixon signs a bill banning cigarette advertising on radio and TV, effective Jan. 1, 1971.

■ **April 13:** Apollo 13 crew members hear an explosion in the service module, which houses the ship's main engine and most of its life-giving power and environmental systems. The lunar module, with its independent electricity and oxygen supplies, becomes the crew's lifeboat for most of the journey home. On April 17, Apollo 13 splashes down safely in the Pacific Ocean.

■ **April 22:** Earth Day rallies, each involving up to 25,000 people in several large cities and at least 10 million schoolchildren, are held to draw attention to global environmental problems.

■ **May 12:** The Senate approves the appointment of Harry Blackmun to the Supreme Court.

■ **Sept. 13:** The first New York City Marathon is won by Gary Muhreke, with a time of 2 hours, 31 minutes, 38.2 seconds. Of the 126 starters, 55 finish the course.

■ **Sept. 28:** Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser dies of a heart attack. He is succeeded by Vice President Anwar Sadat.

■ **Nov. 3:** Salvador Allende takes office as president of Chile. He is the first Marxist to be elected head of a government in the Western Hemisphere by a democratic majority.



McCartney

asking that the group be legally dissolved.

## ■ Dec. 31:

Paul McCartney sues the other three Beatles — Ringo Starr, John Lennon and George Harrison — along with the group's manager, Allen Klein,

## 1971

■ **Jan. 2:** A soccer match in Glasgow, Scotland, ends in tragedy when a stadium barrier collapses and 66 people are trampled to death. It is one of the worst tragedies in sports history.

■ **March 29:** Charles Manson and three female members of his "family" are sentenced to death for the murders of actress Sharon Tate and six others in 1969.

■ **March 29:** Army 1st Lt. William Calley is found guilty in a military court of the murders of 22 Vietnamese civilians in the hamlet of My Lai. He is the only soldier convicted in the massacre, although a number of officers and enlisted personnel are tried.

■ **April 20:** The Supreme Court unanimously rules that every district in the South must bus students to achieve integration.

■ **May 1:** The National Railroad Passenger Corp., the public/private venture known as Amtrak, begins operation.

■ **May 12:** The Civil Service Commission bans men-only and women-only designations for most federal jobs.

■ **June 9:** President Nixon ends a 21-year embargo against trade with Communist China.

■ **June 13:** A New York Times article explodes into one of the biggest stories of the year. Fed a top-secret analysis of the war in Vietnam, The Times and then The

## The president resigns

The Watergate scandal climaxes on Aug. 5, 1974, when President Nixon admits to ordering a halt in the investigation of the burglary of the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972, at the Democratic Party's national headquarters. He says the order was for political as well as security reasons. The admission is contained in a statement accompanying the release of transcripts of three conversations taped on June 23, 1972.

Three days later, Nixon announces in a televised address that he will resign at noon the next day. He says he felt it his duty to persevere in the fight against impeachment, but "in the last few days it was evident that I no longer had a strong political base in Congress to continue with the effort."

Nixon becomes the first U.S. president to resign. Nixon — who had pulled off stunning coups in 1972: summit meetings in China and the Soviet Union, two arms-lim-

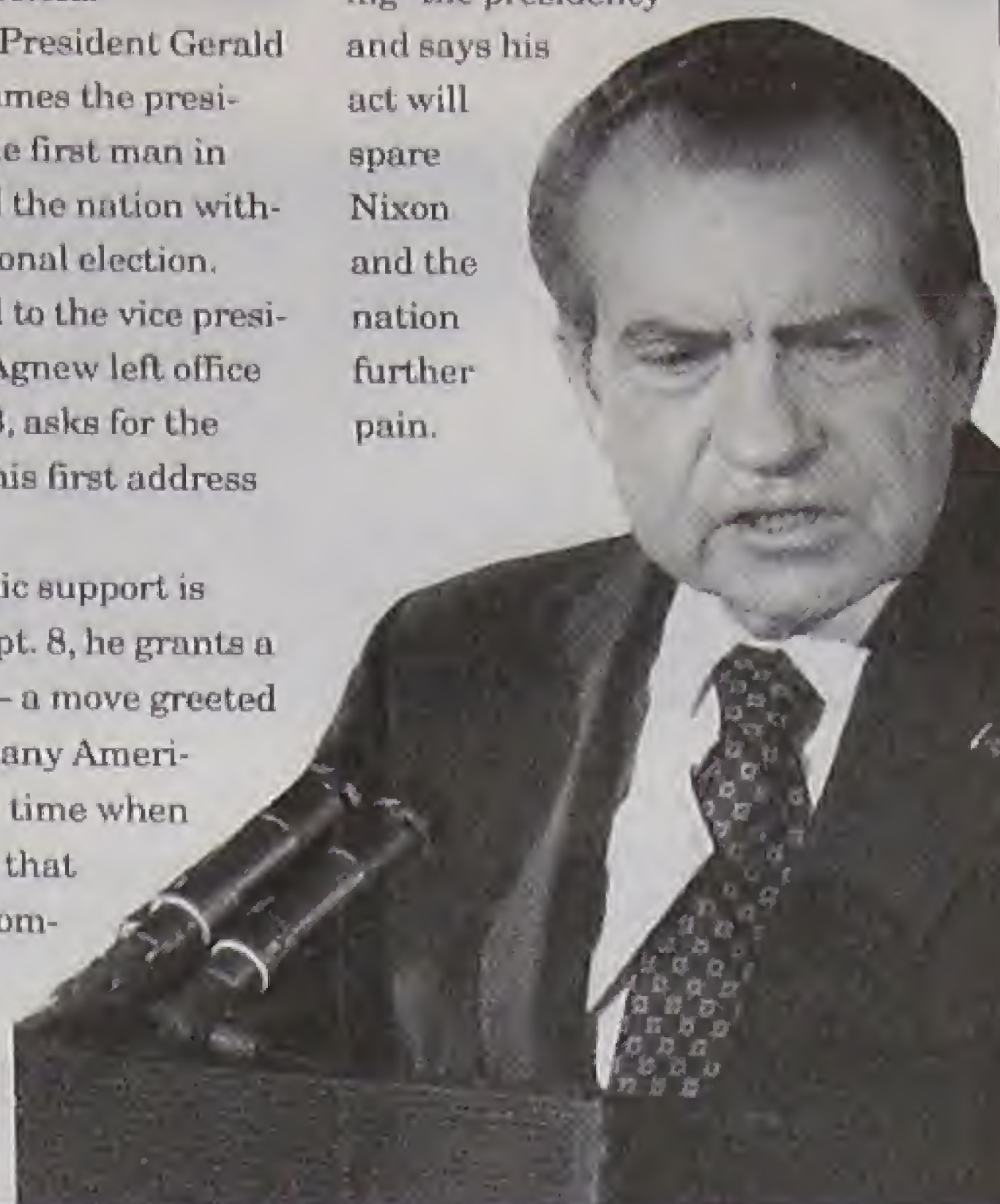
itation treaties and the biggest Republican landslide yet in a presidential election — tells the nation that he hopes his resignation will start a "process of healing that is so desperately needed in America."

On Aug. 9, Vice President Gerald Rudolph Ford assumes the presidency, becoming the first man in U.S. history to lead the nation without winning a national election.

Ford, appointed to the vice presidency after Spiro Agnew left office in disgrace in 1973, asks for the country's trust in his first address as president.

But Ford's public support is short-lived. On Sept. 8, he grants a pardon to Nixon — a move greeted with outrage by many Americans. It comes at a time when evidence suggests that Nixon may have committed criminal

Nixon announces his resignation to his staff.



FORD: COURTESY OF THE SWITZERMAN INSTITUTION

## A nation divided over war

Rarely have Americans been so divided as in 1970 over the war in Vietnam. But the galvanizing event in this turbulent year is President Nixon's announcement April 30 that U.S. troops have entered Cambodia to destroy Viet Cong and North Vietnamese "headquarters" and "sanctuaries."

The announcement sparks demonstrations at colleges and universities across the nation.

The Reserve Officer Training Corps building at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, is still smoldering May 4 when a confrontation between National Guard troops and about 1,000 young demonstrators results in the deaths of four students. Guard commanders say the soldiers were forced to shoot in

response to sniper fire; the demonstrators say they were unarmed.

Ten days later, at Jackson State College in Mississippi, two students are killed and nine are wounded when police and state troopers open fire on a dormitory.

The explosion of rage results in the shutdown of 75 college campuses for the rest of the academic year. On June 13, Nixon appoints a nine-member Commission on Campus Unrest. The panel reports in the fall that the actions of some Kent State students were "dangerous, reckless and irresponsible" but that the "61 shots by Guardsmen certainly cannot be justified." The police shooting at Jackson State, the commission says, was "an unreasonable, unjustified overreaction."



National Guardsmen at Kent State University fire into a crowd of students.

Washington Post are taken to court by the Nixon administration, which seeks to quash the series on national-security grounds. The Supreme Court rules 6-3 that the newspapers have a right to print the material. The series reveals that in many instances, the public and Congress have been misled about Vietnam.

■ **Sept. 9:** A riot involving more than 1,200 inmates breaks out at the Attica Correctional Facility in New York. Using hostages as their bargaining tool, the inmates present a list of ultimatums. On Sept. 13, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller orders 1,500 lawmen to storm the cellblocks. The riot claims the lives of 11 hostages and 32 prisoners.

■ **Oct. 1:** Disney World opens in Orlando, Fla., at a cost of \$500 million to \$600 million.

## 1972

■ **Jan. 5:** President Nixon signs a bill authorizing a \$5.5 billion, six-year program to develop a space shuttle craft that will lift off as a rocket and return to Earth as an airplane.

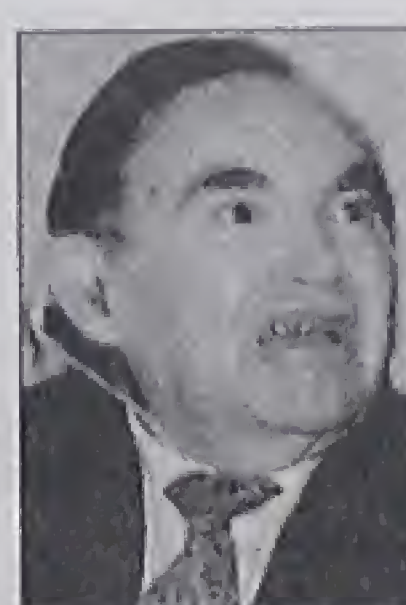
■ **Jan. 30:** On a day that will become known as "Bloody Sunday," British troops kill 13 men in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, during a Roman Catholic civil rights rally held in defiance of a government ban.

■ **March 9:** Clifford Irving's "autobiography" of Howard Hughes is officially discredited with the indictment of the expatriate au-

thor, his wife, Edith, and his researcher, Richard Suskind, on criminal charges.

■ **March 24:** Britain dissolves Northern Ireland's provincial government and parliament and orders direct rule from London.

■ **May 1:** NBC's "The Tonight Show" moves from New York to Los Angeles.



Wallace

speech in Laurel, Md. The attack leaves Wallace paralyzed from the waist down. On Aug. 4, Arthur Herman Bremer, 21, is convicted of the attack and sentenced to 63 years in prison.

■ **June 29:** The U.S. Supreme Court rules that capital punishment is "cruel and unusual punishment" and is unconstitutional.

■ **July 8:** President Nixon announces a three-year trade pact between the United States and the Soviet Union.

■ **July 13:** In an unprecedented football team swap, Robert Irwin makes a no-cash trade of his Los Angeles Rams for Carroll Rosenbloom's Baltimore Colts.

■ **Aug. 1:** New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath signs a

acts in the scandal.

Opinion polls show Ford's support plummeting. Ford says the former chief executive "paid the unprecedented penalty of relinquishing" the presidency and says his act will spare Nixon and the nation further pain.

record contract providing for \$500,000 for two years.

■ **Sept. 1:** Bobby Fischer becomes the first American to win the international chess championship in Reykjavik, Iceland.

■ **Sept. 5:** Nine Israeli hostages, five of their Arab captors and a policeman die in gunfire at an airfield in Munich, West Germany, ending a day of terror that began when Palestinian guerrillas killed two other members of the Israeli contingent to the Olympic Games in their quarters at the Olympic Village. The XX Olympiad is suspended for two days.

■ **Nov. 14:** The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at 1,003.16, finishing above 1,000 for the first time.

## 1973

■ **Jan. 22:** Launching an emotional debate over abortion, the Supreme Court rules that personal privacy rights are "broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." The Roe vs. Wade decision invalidates abortion statutes in 46 states.

■ **Jan. 27:** The Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring the Peace in Vietnam is signed in Paris. The crux: The United States agrees to withdraw its 23,700-member force within 60 days with no guarantee that its South Vietnamese ally will survive, and North Vietnam agrees to free more than 500 U.S. prisoners of war.

■ **May 8:** Members of the American Indian Movement end a 71-day occupation at a reservation in South Dakota during which gunfire killed two FBI agents and wounded 12 others. Nearly 1,200 are arrested. The showdown is at Wounded Knee, site of a historic 1890 battle that killed 153 Sioux.

■ **May 17:** The Senate Watergate Committee opens televised hearings. The summer brings a number of bombshells, first from fired White House counsel John W. Dean III, who testifies that President Nixon participated in a cover-up. Then in July, former presidential assistant Alexander P. Butterfield tells of an Oval Office taping system. A week later, special prosecutor Archibald Cox subpoenas nine recordings, but the White House refuses to turn over the tapes. The legal battle that follows ends in October, when an appeals court rules the tapes must be surrendered. On Oct. 20, Nixon fires Cox. The attorney general and deputy attorney general are discharged for having refused to fire Cox. Three days after what becomes known as the "Saturday Night Massacre," 22 bills are introduced in Congress calling for an impeachment investigation.



Secretariat at Belmont Stakes.

■ **June 9:** Secretariat, touted as "the greatest horse that ever lived," becomes the ninth horse to win racing's Triple Crown.

■ **Aug. 2:** The Chicken Ranch, said to be America's oldest continuously operating brothel, closes in La Grange, Texas.

■ **Sept. 11:** Chilean President Salvador Allende is overthrown and dies under suspicious circumstances.

■ **Sept. 20:** A tennis match billed as the "battle of the sexes" ends in defeat for Bobby Riggs, 55, who loses in three straight sets to Billie Jean King, 29.

■ **Oct. 6:** Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack on Israel. The Arab nations use the war to press an oil advantage. After the attack, delegates to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries demand that the price of oil be doubled. On Oct. 16, OPEC hikes the posted price of oil by 70 percent, to \$5.11 a barrel. The next day, Arab oil ministers agree to cut production by 5 percent a month until Israel gives in to its demands. On Oct. 20, Saudi Arabia announces an embargo on all oil shipments to the United States. Other nations join in. In December, OPEC raises its price to \$11.65 a barrel. Within months, the embargo drives up gas prices as much as 40 percent and brings gas lines to the United States.

## 1974

■ **Jan. 2:** President Nixon signs into law a bill that requires states to lower speed limits to 55 mph in order to receive federal highway funds. The bill is designed to conserve energy.

■ **Feb. 5:** Patricia Hearst, daughter of publishing magnate Randolph Hearst, is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army. She is not seen again until April 15, when she turns up during an armed bank robbery in San Francisco. It's unclear whether she is a willing participant in the robbery.

■ **Feb. 13:** Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1970, has his Soviet citizenship taken away and is exiled to West Germany.

■ **March 3:** A Turkish Airlines DC-10 jumbo jet crashes shortly after takeoff from Orly Airport outside Paris, killing all 346 aboard in what is, to date, the worst air crash in history.

■ **May 5:** NCR Corp. introduces the bar-code scanner at the annual convention of the Super Market Institute.



Hank Aaron hits his 715th homer.

■ **April 4:** Henry "Hank" Aaron of the Atlanta Braves ties Babe Ruth's record with his 714th career home run. Four days later, Aaron smacks his 715th homer for an all-time record.

■ **May 18:** India detonates an atomic bomb and becomes the world's sixth nuclear power.

■ **May 31:** A peace agreement signed by Israel and Syria ends eight months of sporadic fighting.

■ **June 12:** Little League baseball announces that its teams will be open to girls.

■ **June 30:** Mikhail Baryshnikov defects to the West while he is in Toronto as a guest artist with the Soviet Union's Bolshoi Ballet.

■ **July 29:** Eleven women are ordained as Episcopal priests in Philadelphia. The House of Bishops declares the ordinations illegal, but in October endorses the principle of female priests.

■ **Oct. 3:** Frank Robinson becomes the first black manager in major-league baseball when he signs a \$175,000-a-year contract as player-manager for the Cleveland Indians.

■ **Nov. 21:** Congress passes the Freedom of Information Act.

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1975



**Haldeman**  
Nixon administration officials H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and John M. Mitchell are convicted of conspiring to obstruct justice in the Watergate cover-up. They are later sentenced to 2½ to eight years in prison.

■ **May 8:** Khmer Rouge guerrillas are reportedly uprooting millions of Cambodians in a peasant revolution, less than a month after Communist-led forces seized control of the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, ending a five-year civil war.

■ **May 12:** The U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez is seized by Cambodian forces and its crew charged with spying. The crew is freed two days later in a U.S. military rescue operation in the Gulf of Thailand. Fifteen U.S. soldiers die and 50 are wounded in the operation.

■ **June 20:** Chicago mobster Sam Giancana, reputed to have participated in a failed CIA plot to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro, is gunned down outside his home in Oak Park, Ill.

■ **June 24:** An Eastern Airlines 727 out of New Orleans crashes upon landing at JFK Airport in New York, killing 113 people. It is the worst single-plane disaster in U.S. aviation history.

■ **July 17:** In a history-making linkup, the American Apollo spacecraft and the Soviet Union's *Pyroz* 19 dock with each other 10 miles over the Atlantic Ocean.

■ **July 30:** Former Teamsters Union leader Jimmy Hoffa disappears after being seen outside a restaurant in Bloomfield Township, Mich.

■ **Aug. 23:** The Communist-led Pathet Lao guerrillas take control of Laos, culminating in the Communists' ascension to power in Indochina.

■ **Sept. 22:** For the second time in 17 days, President Ford escapes assassination when activist Sara Jane Moore, 45, fires a gun as he steps out of a hotel in San Francisco. On Sept. 5 in Sacramento, Calif., Lynette Alice "Squeaky" Fromme, 26, a follower of jailed mass murderer Charles Manson, pointed a pistol at Ford from close range.

■ **Oct. 1:** Muhammad Ali retains his heavyweight title with a TKO of Joe Frazier after 14 rounds in the Philippines. The bout, billed as the "Thrilla in Manila," is watched by an estimated 700 million.

■ **Nov. 10:** The parents of Karen Anne Quinlan, a young woman who had been comatose for seven months, lose a court bid to turn off the respirator believed to be keeping her alive. On March 4, 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court will approve disconnecting the respirator. Quinlan proves to be able to breathe on her own.

■ **Nov. 10:** The 729-foot ore hauler SS Edmund Fitzgerald, the largest ship to ply the Great Lakes, leaves Superior, Wis., with 26,000 tons of iron ore bound for Detroit. In the path of the Fitzgerald lurks a terrible storm, and luck is not with the ship and its 29 crewmen. Coast Guard officials theorize that the vessel broke in two and sank in about 350 feet of water.

1976

■ **March 24:** Isabel Peron — who assumed control of Argentina upon the death of her husband, Juan, on July 1, 1974 — is ousted in a military coup.



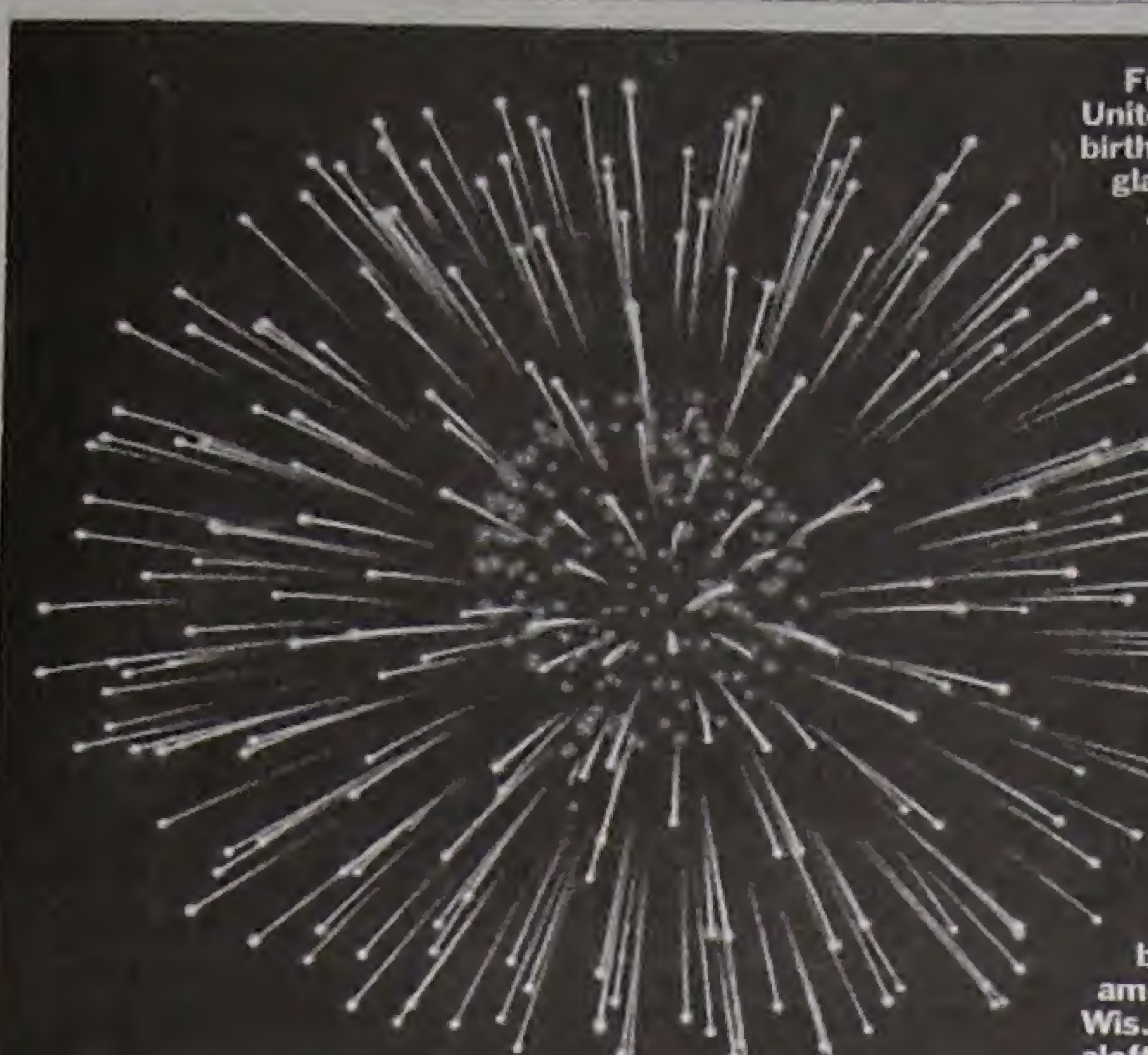
■ **April 1:** College dropouts Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak form the Apple Computer Co. in Palo Alto, Calif. Working out of Jobs' garage, the two begin assembling Apple I computers, which sell for \$666.66 and have 8 kilobytes of RAM.

■ **June 16:** In the worst upheaval that white-ruled South Africa has seen, rioting erupts in the black township of Soweto as blacks protest the mandatory use of the Afrikaans language in schools. After three days, the official casualty toll is 60 dead and more than 800 injured.

■ **July 2:** Reversing a 1972 de-

# 1975-1979

M I L L E N N I U M N O T E B O O K



## AMERICA'S 200TH

From sea to shining sea, the United States celebrates its 200th birthday in 1976 with rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air. Across the nation, millions turn out for celebrations of that July 4 in 1776 when the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, declared that "these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states ... absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown." This day, 200 years later, is one of solemnity, silliness and sheer, exuberant fun. Americans offer prayers, barbecue brisket and set off fireworks around the clock. In George, Wash., townsfolk bake a cherry pie 60 feet in diameter. On a hill in Sheboygan, Wis., 1,776 Frisbees are flung aloft simultaneously. A pancake in Boston measures 76 inches across. More than 10,000 people become citizens in mass naturalization ceremonies across the land. Washington, D.C., hosts the most spectacular fireworks display — costing \$200,000 — and New York City stages a heart-stopping parade of tall ships past a newly refurbished Statue of Liberty.

rigid quotas for minority admissions are illegal.

■ **July 25:** Louise Joy Brown is born in Oldham, England. Baby Louise is the first human being conceived outside the womb — in a procedure called "in vitro fertilization."

■ **Aug. 7:** The Love Canal area of Niagara Falls, N.Y., is considered to be environmentally unfit for human habitation. From 1947 to 1952, the Hooker Chemical Co. dumped tons of toxic waste into an abandoned canal. In 1953, the company filled in the canal and sold it for \$1 to Niagara Falls. The city built a school on the dump site and housing developments soon followed.

■ **Aug. 20:** Three Dallas police sharpshooters help re-enact the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Acoustical experts hired by the House Select Committee on Assassinations are trying to re-create the sound of bullets that killed Kennedy. The panel concludes that conspiracies were likely in the assassinations of Kennedy in 1963 and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

■ **Sept. 16-17:** A Middle East peace conference at Camp David, Md., leads to the agreement to conclude a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel within three months. The Camp David accords and subsequent peace treaty will win the Nobel Peace Prize for Israel's Menachem Begin and Egypt's Anwar Sadat, though not for President Carter.

■ **Nov. 18:** From the jungle of Guyana in South America, cult leader James Warren "Jim" Jones engineers the assassination of a visiting California congressman, Leo Ryan, and four members of Ryan's entourage, the mass suicide of 913 of his People's Temple followers, and then takes a gun to himself.

■ **Nov. 27:** San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, the city's first openly homosexual official, are shot to death by former Supervisor Dan White, a conservative ideologue who wanted to withdraw his recent resignation from the Board of Supervisors.

1979

■ **March 28:** The worst nuclear accident in U.S. history occurs at the Three Mile Island plant in Middletown, Pa. On the day of the accident, officials say that there has been no radiation release and that the plant is cooling down. But within days, there is fear of a meltdown. An estimated 80,000 to 250,000 people flee. The weeklong crisis ends as officials stabilize the damaged reactor, but Three Mile Island stokes opposition to the expanding nuclear-power industry.



**Thatcher**

remain in office 11 years — the longest tenure of any 20th-century British prime minister.

■ **Aug. 27:** Lord Louis Mountbatten, great-grandson of Queen Victoria, World War II admiral and British viceroy of India, is assassinated. The 79-year-old earl becomes the most famous victim in the Irish Republican Army's 10-year guerrilla campaign to drive Britain out of Northern Ireland.

■ **Oct. 6:** Pope John Paul II becomes the first pope to meet a president at the White House.

■ **Dec. 10:** Mother Teresa, a Roman Catholic nun who has worked with the poor in the festering slums of India, accepts the Nobel Peace Prize. "Personally, I am unworthy," the 69-year-old nun tells the prize committee, "I accept in the name of the poor."

■ **Dec. 21:** Congress votes to provide \$1.5 billion in federal loan guarantees to help Chrysler Corp. escape bankruptcy. This sets the stage for a stunning comeback led by the charismatic Chrysler chairman, Lee Iacocca.

## The fall of Saigon

On April 29, 1975, just after dusk, 11 U.S. Marines are plucked from the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon in an emergency helicopter airlift. They are the last American soldiers to be evacuated from the South Vietnamese capital after the most divisive war in U.S. history.

Just after noon the next day, a North Vietnamese flag is raised over the presidential palace in Saigon. The South Vietnamese surrender to the North, ending the Vietnam War after three decades of strife, first involving the French and then the Americans. The war's final death toll is roughly 1.3 million Vietnamese and more than 56,000 Americans. The Americans' \$141 billion effort to stop communism in Southeast Asia is a bust.

The North Vietnamese immediately change the name of Saigon to Ho Chi Minh City, after Vietnamese nationalist leader Ho Chi Minh.

Some residents cheer the arrival of the Viet Cong; others pillage the U.S. Embassy, taking everything from filing cabinets to the kitchen sink.

The American departure seems as disorganized as the war effort. After several days of debate in Washington over whether to remove Americans from Saigon, President Ford finally orders the airport outside Saigon is closed by gunfire. Pandemonium ensues. South Vietnamese fling themselves on barbed wire in trying to escape to the embassy compound; others toss their children over the embassy wall in the hope of saving the next generation.

Ford says that the fall of Saigon "closes a chapter in the American experience." The war had divided the nation for more than a decade, and its end prompts disillusionment and a new spirit of isolationism.

tenced to 25 years to life for each of the killings.

■ **Sept. 7:** President Carter and Panamanian Brig. Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera sign treaties to transfer control of the Panama Canal to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999.

■ **Sept. 12:** Steve Biko, a leader of South Africa's "black consciousness" movement, dies in Pretoria of massive head injuries while in police custody. Biko, 30, had founded the South African Students Organization in 1968 while a student at the University of Natal.

■ **Nov. 21:** Egyptian President Anwar Sadat ends a historic visit to Israel, during which he joined hands with Prime Minister Menachem Begin and addressed the Knesset, declaring "no more war."

1978

■ **Jan. 15:** The first National Football League championship game shown during prime time — Super Bowl XII in New Orleans — garners an estimated 86 million viewers.

■ **June 28:** The Supreme Court rules that the University of California must admit Allan P. Bakke to its medical school. Bakke, who is white, claimed his civil rights were violated when he was refused admission to the school because of racial quotas designed to increase the number of minority students. The decision upholds the constitutionality of special minority admissions, known as affirmative action, but maintains that

cision, the Supreme Court rules that the death penalty is not inherently cruel and unusual punishment.

■ **July 4:** A mysterious virus, later dubbed Legionnaire's disease, breaks out at a Philadelphia hotel hosting an American Legion convention. Within two months, it kills 28 people.

■ **July 4:** Israel stuns the world with a commando raid at Entebbe Airport in the East African nation of Uganda. The aim is to free 106 hostages — many of them Jewish — who were seized June 27 when Palestinian terrorists hijacked an Air France flight. Within 53 minutes, the raiders gun down seven hijackers and 20 Ugandan soldiers, snatch up the hostages, destroy 11 Ugandan planes and escape with only one casualty, Yonatan Netanyahu, whose brother, Benjamin, will be elected Israeli prime minister two decades later.



**A picture of Mars taken the day after Viking 1 landed on the planet.**

■ **Sept. 9:** China is jolted by the second death of an old-guard leader when Mao Tse-tung, leader of the nation since 1949, dies of Parkinson's disease. An estimated 1 million flock into Tiananmen Square to mourn their leader. Earlier this year, on Jan. 8, Chou En-lai, 78, premier since the Communists took power in 1949, died of cancer.

■ **Sept. 13:** The U.S. National Academy of Sciences reports that chlorofluorocarbons, especially those in aerosol cans, endanger the Earth's protective ozone layer.

1977

■ **Jan. 17:** "Let's do it," says convicted killer Gary Gilmore seconds before he is executed by a firing squad in Utah. Gilmore's execution is the first in the United States in 10 years. His story will be recounted in Norman Mailer's 1979 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "The Executioner's Song."

■ **Jan. 20:** Jimmy Carter takes the oath of office as the nation's 39th president and then astonishes the crowd by walking from the Capitol to the White House. His first full day in office, Carter grants a "full, complete and unconditional pardon" to all Vietnam War draft evaders, providing they have not engaged in criminal acts.

■ **Jan. 23:** "Roots," the 12-hour miniseries based on author Alex Haley's moving search for his African ancestors, captivates the nation for eight straight nights on ABC and becomes the highest-rated series of all time.



**LeVar Burton (center) in "Roots."**

■ **March 27:** A KLM Boeing 747 barreling down a fog-shrouded runway in the Canary Islands, collides almost head-on with a taxiing Pan Am 747, killing 582 people in the worst aviation disaster in history.

■ **April 18:** President Carter says that the United States must respond to the energy crisis with the "moral equivalent of war." He adds that America "is the most wasteful nation on Earth."

■ **Aug. 3:** Tandy Corp. introduces its Radio Shack TRS-80 computer in New York. The \$600 machine becomes a hot seller.

■ **Aug. 10:** New York police arrest 24-year-old David Berkowitz in the sensational slayings of six people and the wounding of seven others. During the 13-month killing spree, Berkowitz carries on a cryptic correspondence with police and tabloid newspapers, calling himself Son of Sam. In 1978, he will plead guilty and be sen-

## BIRTHS

Drew Barrymore, actress, 2/22/75  
Tiger Woods, golfer, 12/30/75  
Fred Savage, actor, 1/9/76  
Alicia Silverstone, actress, 10/4/76  
Sarah Michelle Gellar, actress, 4/14/77  
Kerri Strug, gymnast, 11/19/77  
Katie Holmes, actress, 12/18/78



## TRENDS

## What's in vogue

■ **1975:** If you're not wearing a T-shirt touting some brand of beer, a sporting event or commercial enterprise, you're not cool. Leisure is in at the workplace: polyester suits for men; sexy, tight-fitting fashions for women. Discotheques are the hot new clubs, and 20 million mood rings (right), which change color with body temperature, are sold in America.

■ **1976:** A national craze for citizen's band radios has Americans embracing such terms as "10-4" for affirmative, "good buddy" for an air-wave acquaintance and "smokie" for a state trooper. First lady Betty Ford even gets into the act, hitting the airwaves with the handle "First Mama."

## ENTERTAINMENT

## America and VCRs

Two competing Japanese companies introduce video-recording devices into America's entertainment mix in 1976: Sony with Betamax, and JVC, or Japanese Victor Co., with VHS. The VCR dramatically broadens what people can watch on the tube. TV ad rates and movie attendance suffer, but the VCR is a boon to such emerging industries as video-rental stores and video pornography.

## The Force is with you

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ..." With those words in the opening titles, director George Lucas introduces filmgoers to the first installment of his epic "Star Wars" series. The 1977 film, which grosses \$232 million in North America and millions more overseas, combines the elements of boys' adventure novels, Greek mythology, samurai epics, Westerns, pulp science fiction and matinee serials.



**R2D2**

## Hostage crisis

The first sign of trouble at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, is received at the State Department in the early hours of Nov. 4, 1979.

Political officer Elizabeth Swift reports that a mob of young Iranians has broken into the embassy compound. "We're going down," Swift reports to Washington before she is blindfolded and led into captivity.

The capture of 63 Americans caps a year of events that brings a volatile Iran into U.S. homes.

It starts Jan. 16, when Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi flees Iran after 37 years of rule. On Feb. 1, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — a white-bearded cleric who has lived in exile for 16 years for opposing the shah and promulgating an Islamic Republic — is greeted by 1 million supporters upon his return to Tehran.

Within days, the shah's government is overthrown. The ayatollah moves to reverse Western freedoms. Those who disobey are stoned.

The revolution creates a second oil crisis for the United States. By summer, gasoline shortages are spreading throughout the United States. The taking of the U.S.



**Carter**

hostages comes after President Carter allows the shah to enter the United States for medical treatment in October.

Soon after their seizure, female and black hostages are released, leaving about 50 in captivity. As the year ends, the hostage crisis and gas shortages are taking a toll on Carter's presidency. The crisis ends when the hostages are released Jan. 20, 1981, the day Ronald Reagan takes office.

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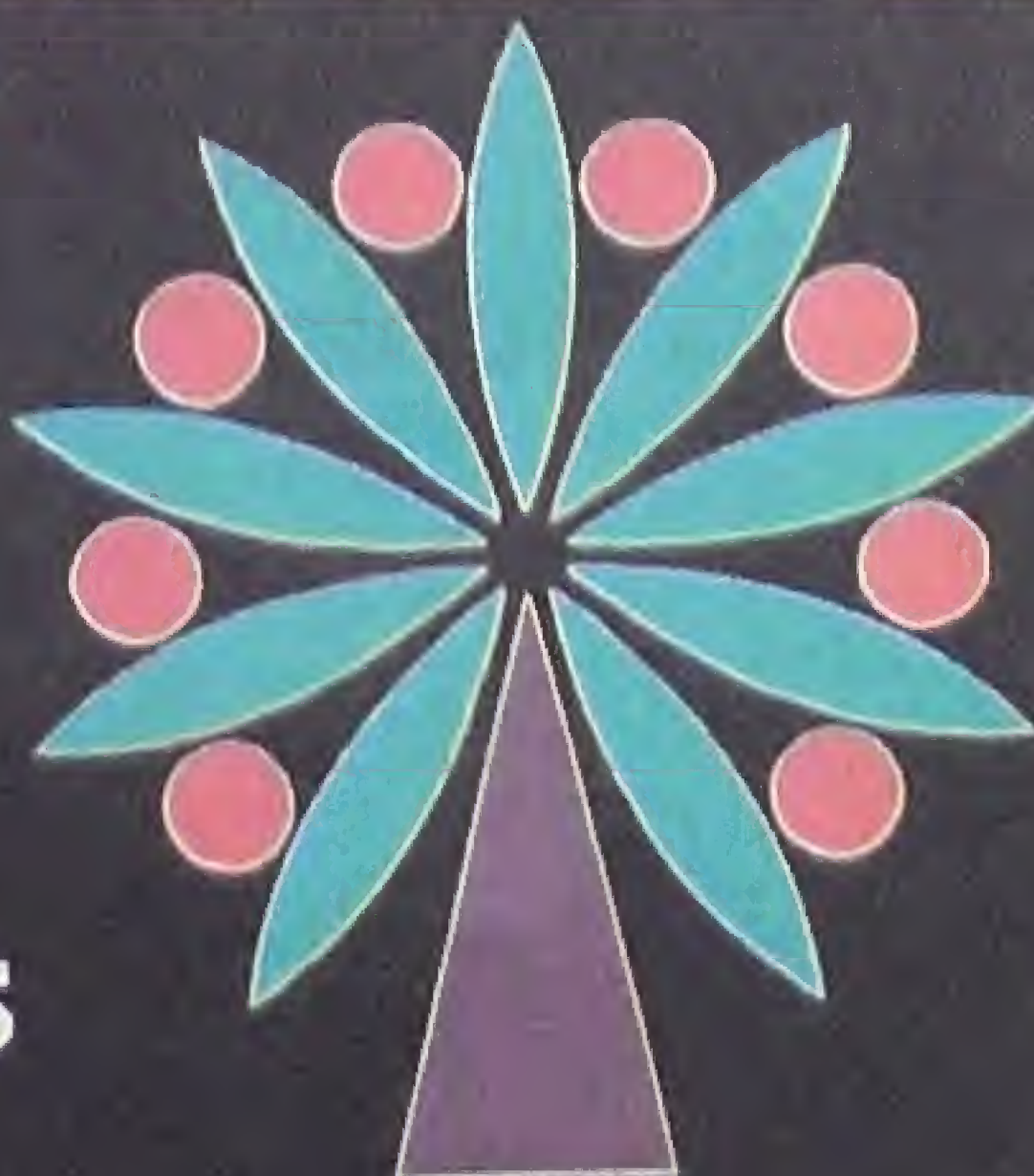
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